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PAPER NO. I

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

FORTY FOURTH SESSION

A G E N D A

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A G E N D A

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PART I

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

44TH SESSION - 1976

A G E N D A

I. Motion of Condolence

Prof. K.A. Nilkanta Sastri, retired Professor of History, Madras University passed away on 15th June 1975 at Madras. A noted historian Prof. Sastri was closely associated with the Indian Historical Records Commission for more than three decades and took keen interest in its deliberation.

Resolution: "The members of the Indian Historical Records Commission assembled at Bikaner for the 44th Session deeply mourn the death of Prof. K.A. Nilkanta Sastri, one of its most eminent and very old members. The contribution made by him to the Commission's work as also to the development of Archives and in the field of Indian history are too well known to need reiteration. Resolved that the sincerest condolences of the Commission be conveyed to the next of his kin."

II. Discussion on Secretary's Report

III. Review of the action taken on the previous Resolutions and Recommendations of the Commission and the Standing Committee

(Please see Annexure at pp

66-103)

IV. Resolutions by the Members

A. Acquisition of historical documents of erstwhile Saurashtra States.

(1) Resolution by Professor R.K. Dharaiya

"It is resolved that the historical documents lying in the palaces of former native states of Saurashtra, be procured. The princes concerned may be requested to supply the documents or their copies to the I.H.R.C. The Government of the State of Gujarat may also be requested to help in the process."

Explanatory Note

Many valuable historical documents are lying in the palaces, libraries of some of the native states of Saurashtra. They contain manuscripts, correspondence, notes etc. referring to various aspects of the policy and activities of the State. They are perhaps unused, and if procured will certainly throw new light on the history of native states and their relations with the British Government.

Standing Committee's views:

A similar resolution on the records of the ex-ruling families of the former Princely States of Orissa to ensure proper preservation of their family papers and erstwhile State records and to allow access to scholars for purposes of research, was adopted in the 38th Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission. The princes were sensitive and not willing to part with their papers, especially to permit their being taken out of their erstwhile states. The problem has to be tackled without wounding their susceptibilities and with due regard to local circumstances.

Efforts should be made for the proper preservation of the papers and their access to scholars for purposes of research rather on their acquisition. Gujarat State Archives is also making a serious effort through the newly constituted Regional Records Survey Committee to locate and list the documents available with the former princely families and individuals. However, the state Archives can be requested to give this matter priority in their development programme and persuade the princes to deposit their papers in the state repository. If they are not willing to part with their papers, they should allow a microfilm copy to be prepared for the use of scholars and kept in the state archives.

B. Compilation and publication of selection from Records of the Central and State Governments

(2) Resolution by Dr. V.D.Divekar

"Resolved that the National Archives of India be requested to take up the work of compiling and publishing a complete union catalogue of all the "Selections from Records" of the Government of India and all the State Governments published so far; and that a microfilm copy of the texts of all these Selections be prepared and made available at the National Archives and other centres for the use of research scholars."

Explanatory note

Selections from Records of various governments in India constitute an important source material for economic, social, political and administrative histories

of India. The first Selection from Records was published in four volumes as long back as in 1820-1826 by the East India Company. Since the 1850's this activity was taken up on a regular basis by various governments. It is estimated that by now about 1700 'Selections' have been published and the publishing activity is progressing steadily thanks to the active interest taken by various archival centres in the country. Unfortunately, so far, no single catalogue covering all these Selections is available to the scholars. Selections published upto 1901 have been recorded in a publication, viz., Catalogue of Selections from Records available in the Imperial Library (Calcutta, 1901). This catalogue is almost exhaustive. Since then, however, no similar comprehensive effort is undertaken for works published in the twentieth century. For the Economic History Bibliography Project of the Gokhale Institute, Poona, a check-list of all Selections relating to economic history has been prepared -but then the list has its own limitations. The National Archives of India, therefore, would be a proper organization to undertake this work and carry it out successfully.

It is also necessary that all the 'Selections' are made available at one place to interested research workers, which requires a microfilming programme. The Irish University Press, Dublin, has microfilmed important British Parliamentary Papers in a series of 1000 volumes, out of which only 22 volumes relate to India. But they have not taken up Selections from Records of India in

their programme. Instead of relying on some foreign agency in this type of work, it would be proper if the National Archives takes up this work, so that it could be more comprehensive, thorough and perfect in its execution.

Standing Committee's views:

The proposal has already been included in the recommendations made by the Expert Committee of Librarians appointed by the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Department of Culture, New Delhi, under the scheme "Publication of Descriptive and Analytical Catalogue of the holdings of the National Archives of India Library". The proposal is under the consideration of the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Department of Culture and Ministry of Finance. However, the card catalogue of all the newly published selections from records received from different States have already been prepared in the National Archives of India and placed in the dictionary catalogue of the Library for consultation of the research scholars.

The National Archives of India will be willing to prepare the microfilm copy of these selections as and when required by any research centre. National Archives of India is also making every effort to fill in the gaps in their series by acquiring old copies from the State Governments etc.

The draft Resolution, therefore, appears unnecessary.

(C) Revision of Research Rules

(3) Resolution by Dr. G.S. Dikshit

"Immediate steps may be taken to revise and update the research rules of the National Archives of India for affording proper facilities to researchers, at the same time keeping in view the security of its holdings, and the State Record Offices may be requested to follow the same rules with only such modifications as are required to suit local conditions."

Explanatory note

Many of the Ministries have thrown open most of their records till the end of 1945. For research in Modern Indian History, however, the dividing line between open and closed period should be 15th August 1947 for obvious reasons. It would be, therefore, necessary to persuade the various government agencies in this respect and incorporate their decisions in the research rules. The present rules provide supply of 10 documents to a scholar at a time. It is noticed, however, that many requisitioned documents are not actually transferred to the Archives. The rules, therefore, should be that a scholar may be free to requisition a minimum number of 30 documents of which only 10 may be supplied to him at a time. Many conventions have grown up in respect of typing and other kinds of assistance to scholars, consultation of 'closed' period records, duplication of records, change of topics by scholars etc. Since these are not mentioned in the rules, it causes considerable inconvenience to

scholars. While it may not be possible to cover every kind of situation that arises, it is advisable to have definite rules covering as many of them as possible.

Standing Committee's views:

The Commission has been fully seized of the problem of enforcing uniformity in the rules governing access to the records of the Government of India and the State Governments. Following Resolution No. XVII of the 37th Session of the Commission, held in 1966, recommending that "All records in the custody of the Union and State Governments which are more than 30 years old should be opened to bonafide researchers", the Commission at its 38th session held in 1967, reiterated (vide Resolution V) the need for all the State Governments to frame rules governing access to their records in conformity with those in force in the National Archives of India. The replies received from the State Governments about the progress made in this behalf were again discussed at the 40th, 41st and 42nd Sessions of the Commission held in 1970, 1971 and 1973 respectively. The Chairman of the Standing Committee addressed the Chief Secretaries of State Governments to secure implementation of these Resolutions. The Commission at its 43rd Session held in 1975 also reiterated (vide Resolution VI) that immediate steps should be taken by all the State Archives to declare open their respective records up to December 1945 to bona fide research scholars. The resolution was forwarded to all the State Governments/ Union Territories. The Governments of Tamil Nadu, West

Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Goa, Daman and Diu, Delhi and Pondicherry have thrown open their records more than 30 years old to the bona fide research scholars, while in Karnataka 35 years old records are open for research.

As regards access to the records of the Government of India, subject to certain limitations, 30 years old records are open to bona fide research scholars. Records relating to Kashmir have now been thrown open for research upto 31st December, 1924. The question of relaxing the restrictions and further liberalising the rules in other respects has not been agreed to by the Government of India. However, steps are being taken to persuade the various ministries to throw open their records upto 1947. But because of certain difficulties the various Ministries have not agreed. However, they have given permission to many scholars to consult the post 1945 period records and in no case the permission was refused.

The views expressed regarding typing assistance to scholars, consultation of 'closed' period records, duplication of records, change of topics etc. are purely administrative problem. All assistance is being rendered to the scholars by the National Archives of India as far as practicable. The National Archives of India Research Rules are also being revised and due consideration is being given to the various difficulties experienced by the scholars.

The objectives behind this Resolution would command universal acceptance. But, in view of the details

mentioned above, it appears somewhat doubtful if much purpose would be served by passing this Resolution.

(D) Preservation of Records on rights of land

(4) Resolution by Dr. Durgaprasad Bhattacharya

"Resolved that the Records of Rights of land be preserved on a sample basis for selected mauzas of each State to represent each type of tenure, economic and ethnical groups of people as may be required by scholars in socio-economic historical studies. Resolved further that a committee be formed to examine various types of records of rights, their availability and the procedure of selecting sample villages in consultation with Director of Land Records of each state, appropriate department of Union Ministries, Central Statistical Organisation, Indian Council of Social Science Research, Indian Statistical Institute and Socio-Economic Research Institute, Calcutta which is conducting studies on records of rights."

Explanatory note:

Khatians or records of right contain a mine of information on the actual state of our agrarian relations. Growing subinfeudation had been a prominent feature of the tenural development in India following the Permanent and other contemporary Settlement. Subinfeudation and the creation of an intermediate interest on land is first reported to have occurred in Burdwan.

(Third Appendix to the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, London, 1832).

Records of rights are available at different points of time. In each khatian, Block No.1 contains information about upper rights, Block 2 about the rights recorded in the particular khatian giving name of persons, proportion of individual share, title of the rights, area held and area leased out. At the second page of the Khatian, one will get the plot numbers, land-type, and share of this particular right in the plots. Lastly, it contains subsequent khatian numbers for tracing out information as to how the leased out land has been disposed off. This is generally applicable upto the first post - independence settlements especially in permanently settled areas.

These records are of extraordinary importance to study of socio-economic changes based on the structure of ownership of land for every plot of India. Genealogical tables may be formed and connected with individual plots over past half century or one and a half century depending on the availability of records. Such relations will reveal whether land is getting more concentrated in the hands of traditional owners at the cost of lower castes and classes or weaker sections. These records will also help to find out malafide land transfer occurred particularly during the decades 1951-1971. These invaluable sources of quantitative material of history are not being preserved. It may not be out of place to quote the following.

"In Deccan or Dukhun, revenue or cadastral surveys undertaken as a basis for land assessment data from the reign of Akbar, in whose time over 7 million acres in Gujarat were measured in connection with the system of Todarmal. By Akbar's settlement, as reported by C.J.Prescott, Superintendent, Revenue Survey, Gujarat on 21-3-1862 in connection with Kaira Survey, " a correct account of boundaries of each village was drawn out, and the whole land carefully measured...In the time of Shah Jahan this survey was extended to Deccan. The First for which records are available is that undertaken by Bijapur Sultans at the end of the sixteenth century. This survey formed the basis of revenue assessment till 1817 though the original settlement was practically revised by Sivaji as the country passed under the sway of the Maharattas".

Standing Committee's Views:

It is not clear from the resolution whether it refers to the old records or to the semi-current records of the rights of land.

Regarding the old records, it may be stated that as per recommendation of the Committee on Archival Legislation, no records of a date earlier than 1860 should be destroyed on any account whatever, has been accepted by almost all the States. Moreover, the Record Management Committee appointed vide Resolution III of the 43rd Session of Indian Historical Records Commission held at Lucknow in January, 1975 to report on the large scale destruction of old public records in several states has also requested all the States that no records of the pre-1947 period should be destroyed pending the report of the Committee.

As regards the appraisal and management of semi-current records, instructions have already been issued under "Policy Resolution in respect of the records of the Union Government", and the various States have also been requested to issue instructions on similar lines.

In view of the above, the Committee proposed in the Resolution seems to be unnecessary. Moreover, the Committee proposed has excluded from its membership the representatives of State Governments or Archives and of ^{the} National Archives of India, who are intimately connected with the appraisal and preservation of records. The formation of the Committee without any Archivist does not appear appropriate in any case.

(E) Ph.D. Theses on Modern Indian History

(5) Resolution by Dr. G.D. Patel

"Resolved that One typed copy of all the theses bearing on Modern Indian History approved by the Indian Universities for the award of Ph.D. are to be deposited in the National Archives of India. In case of difficulty in typing the National Archives of India is to undertake microfilming of the theses. The Commission recommends that the National Archives of India may prepare two microfilmed copies, one for the National Archives of India and the other for the State Archives for the use of scholars."

Explanatory Note:

At the 40th Session of Indian Historical Records Commission held at Madras on 18-20 February, 1970, the Commission passed Resolution XVI stating that copies of all

the theses bearing on Modern Indian History approved by Indian Universities for the award of Ph.D. should be deposited in National Archives of India. Where Universities find it difficult to deposit a copy in National Archives of India, one should be sent to the National Archives of India to be microfilmed. The State Archives are also research centres. Therefore it is desirable that one copy of the theses may be deposited in the State Archives. Most of the State Archives do not possess facility of microfilming but possess a reader. Therefore, it is necessary that one additional copy of microfilm for the State Archives may be prepared by National Archives of India. If such facilities are provided by the National Archives of India, the State Archives will get the advantage and will be able to give more facilities to researchers, administrators, etc.

Standing Committee's views:

^{above}
The resolution was forwarded to all the Universities for necessary action. The Universities of Gauhati, Visva-Bharati, Karnataka, Sardar Patel, Saugar, Andhra and Lucknow have sent the theses for being microfilmed in this Department so far.

As regards preparation of another microfilm copy of the theses for the State Archives for the use of research scholars, it may be stated that subject to any restriction that may be imposed by the author of the theses or the University concerned, a duplicate microfilm copy can be supplied on demand to the State Archives on payment. (The cost of a positive microfilm copy of a theses running into about 500 pages will be approximately Rs.120/- at current

rates). It is not possible for National Archives of India to supply copies of all theses to all States Archives free of cost.

(F) Bringing out compendia on new economic reforms

(6) Resolution by the Government of Kerala

"Resolved to request that the Indian Historical Records Commission may enjoin upon the National Archives of India and the various State Archives in the country to bring out compendia on one or more subjects covered by the new economic reforms launched by the Government of India, especially the twenty point programme announced by the Prime Minister, with a view to helping people to appreciate these egalitarian reforms from a historical standpoint also".

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The recent economic reforms launched by the Government of India including the 20 point programme announced by the Prime Minister in July are no doubt a landmark in the socio-economic life of the nation. Alongside the implementation of these reforms, the Governments both at the Centre and the States have been sparing no efforts to bring home to the people the imperative need of these measures being implemented at the crucial hour in the life of the country. Handouts, press releases, speeches by Ministers and Officers may cover various aspects of the issue.

In order that the people understand the special importance of these economic questions, it would seem necessary that the historical background also of these questions which have issued forth to the forefront of our socio-economic scene at this hour, is given.

If the saying, that an intelligent study of the past promotes a pride in current progress is true, it behoves the National Archives of India and the various State Archives in the country to assist in fostering the Government of India's new economic programmes by bringing out suitable compendia on each of these programmes on the basis of the records in their custody. Substantial original research materials on one or another of the issues on hand may lie locked up in one or another of the various archives institutions in the country and with some effort, fascinating background material in the form of compendiums could be brought out by them with a view to serving the people to understand the programmes in a clear historical perspective also.

To cite an example, Kerala and Tamil Nadu are the two States which are concerned more with the new programme relating to handloom and it can naturally be expected that the archives repositories of these two States may be having a good deal of material which would render themselves easily into a good compendium. Likewise other State Archives may be finding it easy to bring out compendia on one or more of the programmes now being launched or are in the offing. Incidentally all archives may be able to compile compendia on land reform measures because this is a reform common to all States and Union territories.

It is hoped that on the basis of the information that may emerge from a proper study of the material in their own custody, the National Archives of India and the various State Archives would be able to issue compendia with a view

to enable the people to see these issues from the standpoint of history, also.

Standing Committee's views:

Various Institutions are, bringing out publications on Economic History of India viz. (1) Delhi School of Economics, Delhi (2) Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta and (3) Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi. The Vth Plan Schemes of National Archives of India and most States Archives have already been finalised and approved by Planning Commission. At present due to paucity of funds the National Archives of India is not in a position to take up any new publication programme. Report of the Committee on Archival Legislation (December 1960) has recommended that the publication programme in hand should cease after the twenty-one volumes of the Fort-William India House Correspondence project have been published. Each State Archives has its own publication programme and bring out publication on various topics every year subject to the availability of funds. The Learned Institutions and the Universities, however, may take up the publication programme regarding the 20 points. The National Archives of India and the States Archives could give all assistance in this work.

(G) Preservation of private records by political leaders and men of eminence

(7) Resolution by Professor M.N.Das

"Resolved that on behalf of the Indian Historical Records Commission, Circulars in forms of appeals be sent to political leaders and men of eminence in different walks of life to preserve their private, demi-official or official correspondences for the benefit of the future."

Explanatory Note

On enquiry we have painfully discovered that many of our responsible men in different eminent positions do not possess a sense of value of their own activities and they want only to destroy their correspondences, personal, official or demi-official, obliterating thereby valuable information for future. In Western countries, men of importance are known to have been in habit of preserving their writings with considerable care. Many of them leave their strictly private documents under codicil to wills for use after a lapse of time. In India, we need develop a purposive sense in our notables as regard their own values in the context of contemporary history to be utilised in future times.

Standing Committee's views:

Since 1948 earnest efforts have been made by the National Archives of India in acquiring private papers of eminent Indians from different walk of life on loan, by purchase or as gift, and quite a large number of such papers have been acquired and preserved scientifically in this Department. Efforts, made ^{by} several other institutions in acquiring private papers of eminent political leaders are also quite commendable.

The papers are acquired by issuing appeals through the press, Radio, Television and by contacting the Institutions and persons concerned. The papers are made available to the bonafide research scholars conducting research in this Department, subject to certain conditions laid down by the owners of the papers. Radio talks are also being given by Directors of various State Archives from the

local radio stations for the preservation of records. The draft Resolution might further help these efforts in an important field.

(H) Formation of a Committee to advise the State Governments for preservation of valuable files

(8) Resolution by Prof. M.N.Das

"Resolved that a Special Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission be deputed on behalf of the Commission to different state capitals to advise the state governments in matters of selection and preservation of valuable files in view of their ultimate transfer to State Archives".

Explanatory Note

It is the duty of the Commission to advise and assist different state governments in matters of selection of valuable official papers for transfer to State Archives. It is not always a case that different secretaries of various departments are aware of the archival value of the numerous files they set aside as closed. The purpose of the Special Committee should be to meet chief secretaries and other secretaries in conferences to bring home to them the value of various records in their broader historical perspective. As a follow up, trained Archivists of State Archives will help respective secretaries in processing the disposed files for subsequent transfer.

Standing Committee's views:

A Resolution was passed at the 43rd Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission recommending that "The Commission is greatly perturbed over the reported large

scale destruction of old public records in several states, not withstanding the repeated recommendations of the Commission (vide Resolution No. II of 1925, Resolution No. VII of 1942, Resolution No. V of 1943, Resolution No. VI of 1951) and resolves that a Sub-Committee consisting of five Members of the Commission be constituted to investigate and report to the Standing Committee, within six months, on the following:

- (a) the extent to which the above resolutions are being implemented;
- (b) the period and the nature of records destroyed during the last two years;
- (c) the qualifications and suitability of the staff engaged on appraisal of old records; and
- (d) the steps which can be taken immediately to ensure the preservation of records of Department value.

2. The Commission also recommends to the State Governments that no pre-1947 records be destroyed till the said Committee has submitted its report.

In pursuance of the Resolution a Committee was formed by the Government of India to study the problems on management of records of the State Government and Union Territories. The Committee has held five meetings so far and sent round a comprehensive questionnaire ⁱⁿ order to elicit the information regarding the conditions of records and the various ways in which the records are appraised. The Committee has also visited 13 States and 3 Union Territories to make on the spot enquiry about the management of records and has recorded the evidence of the eminent archivists, historians and administrators on the subject. The data thus collected are being processed for drafting the report. It

seems necessary to wait for the comprehensive report of this Committee on this whole problem before passing any new Resolution.

(I) Collection of information on historical documents pertaining to Indian from abroad

(9) Resolution by Prof. M.N.Das

"Resolved that official requests be made to different Governments of Europe and Asia to supply information regarding the availability of historical documents pertaining to India in their respective Archives."

Explanatory Note

In a number of countries of Europe and Asia historical records concerning India, particularly of the nature of political and commercial relations, are available in plenty. Information as regard to the location of such records, with some idea as regard to the character of those records, will prove a valuable source of information for historical purpose. Official requests for information on behalf of the Government of India to various countries may yield results in this regard.

Standing Committee's views:

A Resolution was passed at the 30th Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission held at Patna in December, 1968 recommending that the Government of India be requested to take early steps to obtain microfilm copies of documents in West Asia relating to India's trade with that region. At the 42nd Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission held at Panaji (Goa) in January, 1973 the Commission recommended a review of the policy regarding acquisition of microfilm copies of records from abroad by various institutions in India.

As regards the acquisition of microfilm copies of record of Indian interest from abroad, a circular letter (F.14-16/73-C dated 3.11.73) was addressed to all the State Governments, Universities, Learned Institutions etc. represented on the Commission requesting them to send a list of microfilms already obtained by them from abroad and also to spell out the programme of acquisition of microfilms of records from abroad during the 5th Five-Year Plan. Only (1) Deccan College Post-Graduate Research Institute, Poona, (2) Utkal University and (3) State Archives of Maharashtra, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir have supplied lists of microfilms acquired by them from abroad. The Government of India has now appointed a Committee known as the 'Microfilming Coordinating Committee' which is likely to coordinate and control the microfilming work being done in India and abroad about India.

Since 1948 the National Archives of India has been acquiring microfilm copies of records bearing on Modern Indian History from various archival repositories of U.K., France, Denmark, Norway, Holland, U.S.S.R., Italy, Hungary, G.D.R., U.S.A., Canada and Iraq, Singapore, Thailand etc. These have been thrown open to the bonafide research scholars conducting research in the National Archives of India. The microfilm copies of records pertaining to India are also being required by the N.A.I. from the various foreign countries under the Cultural Exchange Programmes. The Resolution, therefore, appears redundant.

(J) Publication of Historical Documents in vernacular languages with English renderings

(10) Resolution by Andhra Pradesh State Archives:

"Resolved that the Indian Historical Records Commission should consider the publication of important Historical Documents in vernacular languages with English renderings and recommend to Government of India for according financial assistance whenever requests are received from State Governments."

Explanatory Note

There are many unpublished documents of historical importance in the vernacular languages preserved in the repositories of State Archives. If these documents are published after proper editing they would reveal several important factors and would form a basis for rewriting the Social, cultural and Economic History of India. These publications may evince interest among the scholarly world not only in this country but also abroad, once the unknown material comes into limelight. The State Archives with limited resources available at their disposal and due to high cost of printing are not in a position to exploit fully these documents and bring out the publications for the use of scholars. It will not be possible to embark upon a crash publication programme by the State Archives in the years to come.

It is requested that the Indian Historical Records Commission may consider this difficulty and recommend to Government of India for according financial assistance for editing and publication of vernacular documents of historical importance whenever requests are received from

the State Governments, for furthering the cause of historical research.

Standing Committee's views

Under the scheme III (a) of the Five-Year Publication programme the National Archives of India had taken up publication of records in oriental languages with the help of Universities and other learned institutions. The Bangla Letters (Bangla Prachin Patra Sankalan), the Hindi Letters Vol. I (Hindi Prachin Patra Sangra), the Telugu Letters, the Sanskrit Letters, and the Persian Akhbars (Persian Documents) Part I have already been brought out. As regards publication of the Persian Documents, Part II and Hindi Letters Vol. II Correspondence with the Delhi University is going on.

The State Governments may undertake this job out of the funds earmarked for the various State Governments/Union Territories under the programme of the Development of Archives approved by the Planning Commission during the Fifth Five-Year Plan. The State Governments may also entrust this work to the various Universities and learned institutions in their respective States. It does not appear feasible for Governor of India to pay for such publication programmes.

(K) Division of records consequent upon territorial redistribution

(11) (a) Resolution by Andhra Pradesh State Archives:

(b) Resolution by Dr. G.D. Patel:

(a) "Resolved that the Indian Historical Records Commission should consider the proposal of either transferring or microfilming of all the records pertaining to newly

formed States from the residuary State after the State Re-organisation Act."

(b) "The Indian Historical Records Commission recommends that it is administratively expedient for Government of India to lay down Rules for the division of records consequent upon any territorial redistribution from one Government or administration to another."

Explanatory Note (a)

After the bifurcation of the Andhra State from the Composite Madras Presidency the Records exclusively relating to the Andhra areas were separated and transferred from the then Madras Record Office to the then Andhra Record Office at Kurnool from 1920 only with certain gaps.

The Andhra Pradesh State Archives proposed to Government to fill up the lacunae in the records of the Secretariat, Board of Revenue etc. The Tamil Nadu Government agreed to the proposal to separate the records and transfer them to the Andhra Pradesh State Archives. The records are being separated and transferred to the Andhra Pradesh State Archives from 1920 to 1947.

With regard to pre 1920 records the Madras Government have not agreed to transfer the records exclusively relating to former Andhra Districts and also records of common interest. These records are called for by Andhra Pradesh Government frequently for reference and return for administrative purposes. Moreover the research scholars who are doing their Research on Andhra Pradesh history have to invariably visit Tamil Nadu Archives to consult the records pertaining to Andhra districts preserved in Tamil Nadu

Archives. If these records are transferred to Andhra Pradesh State Archives it will be helpful to the Government as well as the research scholars. In case Tamil Nadu Government are not willing to transfer these records the Andhra Pradesh Government may be permitted to take the copies of the records from the oldest available record upto 1920.

Explanatory Note (b)

In the case of the territorial redistribution of the records, the records affected may fall into three broad categories, (i) the regional records created by the district and other local offices located in the areas transferred (ii) the records of law courts and District Municipal and other local boards, located in the same area and (iii) the Central or Secretariat records among which are bound to occur documents and files relating to the areas concerned which cannot be taken out of the series to which they belong without disturbing the natural order or integrity of the records arranged therein. The internationally accepted procedure of treating such records is to limit the division only to 'open' files relating to the areas concerned while keeping intact all closed files that may have a bearing on them, the basic principle governing the treatment of all records affected by any territorial changes that may take place.

It is obvious that partition of Secretariat records, Central Records, etc., cannot be made but there are Regional Records, District Records, Records of the former Princely States merged in the newly-born States, records of the Crown representative and the records of the defunct

Political Agencies and Residencies in possession of the former Government should be transferred to the Archives of that State.* These records are not useful to the main Archives because they relate to the newly-born State, while it will be of immense historical value for the newly-born State Archives.

In this regard, the international principles in the matter of partitioning the records may be observed. But the records of the District, regional etc., without disturbing the series may conveniently be transferred to new Archives and the records which are not transferable from the natural series, their microfilm copies may be supplied by the main Archives.

Standing Committee's views:

The Commission at its 30th and 33rd Session held at Hyderabad in February 1954 and at Bhubaneswar in March 1958 has already recommended (vide Resolution No.III of both the sessions) that the Government of India and the State Governments should accept as a general policy, the well established principle regarding the maintenance of the integrity of archival series in the event of partitioning of State and the rearrangement of their boundaries, and not to allow the division or dismemberment of the non-current records of the existing States.

The newly-created States should be entitled to get all the current records relating to the territories solely within their jurisdiction, personal records of officers of the new States, local records of the localities of the new States, duplicates, if any, of records dealing with policy matters, and copies, or the originals on ~~2~~ ¹ ~~adn~~,.

of non-current records of the existing States required by the new States for latter's administrative needs.

According to the well-established convention regarding treatment of records consequent on the partitioning of territories, archival accumulations are not to be divided because breaking up of their organic unity destroys to a large extent their evidential and research value. This principle which recognizes the inviolability of the archival fonds was observed when the country was partitioned in 1947. In 1936 when the new province of the Orissa was created there was unfortunately a division of records with fatal results. It is absolutely necessary in the interest of proper administration of records and historical research in the country to maintain the integrity of the existing archival accumulations in the States even if their boundaries change. The new States can be given on loan the records they will need for their administrative needs or they can be supplied with typed copies or microfilms of records required by them. The practice followed in the Netherlands in such matters, is that records are not divided but are given on loan for administrative requirements. Example may be cited in particular of the case of partition of records between Belgium and Holland from which neither States benefited. It is, therefore, stressed that the established international convention that records form an organic whole and are indivisible must be followed.

So far as the records of the local administrations are concerned, these would automatically go to the States in whose territories such areas were included. In any case,

all such disputes between two states are decided by the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India after consulting N.A.I. as happened recently in the division of records between Punjab and Haryana. This procedure appears the best.

In view of the above, Andhra Pradesh Government should request the Tamil Nadu Government to supply to them either typed copies or microfilm copies of non-current records pertaining to Pre-1920 records relating to former Andhra Districts, and Tamil Nadu should ~~ox~~tend all facilities for it. The two Resolutions, therefore, appear redundant. But there should be no objection to a Resolution urging all archives to facilitate supply of microfilm copies to other archives on payment.

(L) Sufficient funds for State Archives for purchasing Private records

(12) Resolution by Shri Tara Sharan Sinha

"Resolved that every State Archives should have sufficient funds to purchase collections of private records from their owners who desire to dispose them of in return for monetary benefit and that every State Government should subscribe liberally towards this project by allocating separate grants to their respective Archives for this purpose. Government of India is also requested to subscribe a certain percentage of the same."

Explanatory Note

The survey of private records and the publication of their descriptive lists has made satisfactory progress in our country. The members of the Indian Historical Records Commission and of the State Regional Records Survey Committee's have done a lot in this direction. It has

lately been resolved that those gentlemen who preserve their private collections satisfactorily should be encouraged by being awarded certificate of commendation. But it cannot be said to be a satisfactory arrangement for preserving/protecting private records. The experience has been that, just a couple of years after, the records in the custody of a particular gentleman or family are surveyed and brought to light, if a needy scholar goes to that person or family to look into things of his academic interest he finds that either the owner/owners are missing or they have disposed of their precious collection at a very low price and the things have gone into the hands of antique dealers or agents. This is usually done because of the financial needs of the owners or lack of interest in the owner's family. Old families with aristocratic background are dying fast economically and their collections are vanishing fast with them. This is an all India phenomena and we have to take serious note of it and come forward to save records in private custody from going into oblivion by purchasing them from their owners if they wish to sell them.

Standing Committee's views:

No one can deny the importance of private-records as a source material for writing history. The Indian Historical Records Commission have at various times emphasised the need for survey and acquisition of private-records by the Regional Records Survey Committees (Resolution III of 38th Session). At the 39th Session, the Commission also reiterated that location, acquisition and proper preservation of historical documents in private hands were matters of

national importance. The President of the Indian Historical Records Commission at the last session also alluded in his address to the importance of acquisition and preservation of private records.

However, the question of purchase should arise only as a last resort and this should be made clear in the Resolution. In the first instance, efforts should be made to persuade the owners to donate their records. National Archives of India has already built up a large collection of such papers by donation. But when all such efforts fail, it should be possible to give the owner some monetary inducement, or compensation, for which the state Governments should provide funds. However, Government of India can hardly be requested to transfer funds to State Governments for such purposes.

(M) Setting up of Archival Cell in the Universities

(13)(a) Resolution by Shri Tara Sharan Sinha

(b) Resolution by Shri F.M. Hassnain

(a) "Resolved that every University should have an Archival cell of its own manned by a properly trained and professional Archivists, and that the State Governments as well as the University Grants Commission should make suitable grants to the Universities for the purpose. The University Grants Commission in particular is requested to pay its attention to the Minutes of the University Grants Commission Advisory Committee of Vice-Chancellors held on 3rd December, 1970 on this point."

(b) "Resolved that it may be made binding upon all Universities to organise their archives office on scientific lines so as to preserve important records, data and statistics."

Explanatory Note (a)

It has been resolved (vide Resolution No. 14 of 38th Session of the Indian Historical Record Commission that every University should have its archival cell. But it is regrettable that only two Universities (Delhi & Aligarh as far as information goes) have established their archival units. Madras University is desirous of establishing such a cell but needs proper financing by the University Grants Commission. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh turned down the proposal of Allahabad University for establishing a separate University archives of its own. Magadha University also appears to be inclined to have its archival unit. But the Universities of Calcutta & Bombay which are one of the oldest Universities appear to have taken no initiative in this direction. The subject, therefore, needs to be taken up again with emphasis.

Explanatory Note (b)

Most of the Universities in the country do not have well organised record offices and important records, data, and statistics are left at the mercy of the untrained clerks with the result that at the time of requisition for such documents, the student and the candidates have to suffer. As such, it may be made binding upon all the Universities to organise their record offices on scientific lines to be managed by trained archivists. Previous resolutions in this regard have not borne tangible results.

Standing Committee's views:

Resolution XIV of the 38th Session (1967) recommended that Universities be requested to entrust the care of their

records to officers who had training in Archives Keeping and also to maintain them on scientific lines as a separate entity. This was reiterated by the Commission at its 48th Session (1970).

Indian Universities have in their control not only their own University records but also bequeath of family papers, historical documents and manuscripts in different languages. Some Universities e.g. Delhi, Aligarh, Banbampur, no doubt, have set up their own archival cells while the Universities of Bangalore, Magadh, Bombay and Burdwan have welcomed the Resolution and promised to take necessary steps in this behalf. Many have failed to appreciate its intent and purpose, reporting that they do not have records of historical importance or they are concerned with archives. The Osmania, Lucknow, Allahabad, Madras Universities have stressed the need for financial help to give effect to the Resolution. But the general tendency is to deposit such archival items in the University Libraries. The permanent correspondence of the Universities since their inception needs to be assembled in one place. Historical documents like copper plates, farmans, parwanas etc, gifted to the Universities are useful for historical research. Oriental manuscripts in various languages are again valuable for advanced studies in history, linguistics, sciences and literature. All these need to be properly listed and catalogued by the University Archivists and their staff. It is significant that in several Western Universities whole time Archivists are appointed for this work. As modern printed books are not equivalent to archives, an ordinary

Librarian is not competent to look after the archival assets. For this reasons the University archives should not be tagged on to the University Library. The University should, therefore, set up their own archival departments to safeguard, preserve and utilise such important holdings. As these items are likely to perish in the temple of learning by neglect, these Resolutions appear important & timely. It is necessary, however, to amalgamate the two Resolutions into one,, and to rephrase it.

(N) Transfer of duplicate copy of records to the University from the National Archives of India

(14) Resolution by Dr. K.S.Lal

"Resolved that in order to give a new fillip to research in the universities, and to save time and money of scholars, one copy each of such records as are available in duplicate at the National Archives may be transferred to such universities as are prepared to take the responsibility of preserving and maintaining them for being consulted by research scholars."

Explanatory Note

At the National Archives the Rajasthan Agency Records, which are of immense value for scholars working on the Political and Cultural History of Rajasthan, are lying in duplicate/triplicate. Such records could conveniently be transferred to the University of Jodhpur for which the Vice-Chancellor has already requested and given assurance for their proper upkeep and preservation under expert supervision. Copies of relevant correspondence enclosed.

Standing Committee's views

No record of the late Rajputana States Agency is being recommended for destruction on the plea that it is a duplication of records. Final appraisal of records is being conducted by the National Archives of India in accordance with certain well defined rules and regulations approved by the Government of India. It is a part of the Records Management Programme which this Department is obliged to carry out. Therefore, while appraising these series of records, every care is taken to ensure that all the records which could be of any use historically or administratively are not destroyed. As such the records of the late Rajputana States Agency which are being recommended for disposal by the Government are of ephemeral nature and hardly worth preserving. Further, the records are not destroyed by this Department but the Ministries themselves. Therefore, in case the University is interested in preserving the ephemeral files of the Rajputana States Agency which this Department has recommended for disposal, they may have to write directly to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi. The Vice-Chancellor, Jodhpur University, was addressed on these lines (vide this Department letter No.4-6/74-R.M.I. dated 4.9.74)

National Archives of India is preserving four copies of records of the late Foreign and Political Department series alongwith the original copy. In case the Universities are interested to have microfilm copies of the same, they can have at their own expense subject to usual restrictions. Under the principle of Archives-administration the records are kept in the custody of a lawful owners and any dispersal

of those records is detrimental to the interest of the State or the individual. If any University can spare some funds it would be better advised to undertake survey acquisition & listing of records lying uncared in private custody, rather than preserve ephemeral records.

(o) Publication of Quarterly Journal in the State Archives

(15) Resolution by Dr. S.R. Tyagi

"The commission appreciates the venture of State Archives Trivandrum (Kerala) in starting a quarterly journal "Kerala Archives News Letter" and resolves that similar publications be started by other Archives at their earliest to bring to light the important original material present in their archives."

Explanatory Note

It is a very welcome feature on the part of State Archives, Trivandrum-23 (Kerala) to start a quarterly journal named "Kerala Archives News Letter". It is a publication worth emulation by all the other State Archives of India in as much as it provides a forum for publishing important original Historical material present in an archives. Material thus brought to light becomes a very important source for Historical research to be made by scholars. For example, the two letters dated 30th January/23 & 24th March/26 written by Dr. Chempakarman Pillai to his father and to his brother from Berlin go to show that Kerala did not lag behind other states in providing patriots burning with a zeal to liberate their motherland from foreign domination and worked hand-in-glove with organisations in foreign lands like Germany or America to achieve their aim. This, in its turn, goes to

establish how broad based and wide-spread was the struggle for India's freedom and how sons of motherland made a concerted attempt for it. This lends solidarity to Indian Nationhood which had begun to emerge from the beginning of 19th century.

Publication of such bulletins is, therefore, a very useful contribution to Historical knowledge. Other State Archives should, therefore, start publications of similar news-bulletins to place original material at the disposal of Researchers. Hence the accompanying resolution.

Standing Committee's view

The resolution is quite a landable one. But it is doubtful ~~every~~ the State Archives will have the resources and the sufficient experience to bring out such journals regularly. The National Archives of India had faced enamour difficulties to bring out "The Indian Archives regularly. It will be much better if the State Archives may send their material to the National Archives, so that The Indian Archives" may be brought out either every month or at least after every three month.

(P) Establishment of a full-fleged Department of Archives in Assam

(16) Resolution by Dr. P.C.Chaudhury

"Resolved that a full-fleged Department of Assam State Archives be established with properly trained members of the Staff, to be located at Gauhati, preferably attached to the Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies, as a seperate Wing. with a Director of State Archives."

Explanatory Note

The Regional Records Survey Committee for Assam was sponsored a years back under the auspices of the Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies, Gauhati, and a few important records have already been collected and preserved therein; (b) All nature of records have been and are being preserved under an Officer, Keeper of the Records at the Secretariat, now shifted to the capital at Dispur; (c) There are also a few manuscripts and records at the Assam State Museum and at the Kamarupa Anusandhan Samiti Library at Gauhati; (d) So far as I know, records are available also in Private custodies, at scattered places of the State, including those at the Records Rooms and Offices of the District Magistrates; (e) The Scholars and those engaged in research works find it difficult to consult the records they want to do as these are not preserved at a centrally located place; (f) The members of the Staff, in charge of the records at the Secretariat, I think, are not adequately equipped with knowledge in helping the researchers; (g) All the aforesaid disadvantages call for the re-establishment of a full-fledged Department of State Archives; (h) I already submitted a Scheme for the said purpose, which may have been now lying with the Education Department.

Standing Committee's views:

Full-fledged State Archives has not yet been set up in Assam, though Secretariat Record-room has been functioning as such since 1953, under the care of an officer as termed the Keeper of records. A scheme involving an expenditure of Rs.1 lakh for setting up of State Archives

at Dispur has been included in the current year's (1975-76) annual plan and a State Archives will be established. The plan and estimate for a new record building at Dispur has been approved and the work of construction is being taken up shortly. The question whether the newly established State Archives would be attached to the Department of Historical and Antiquarian studies, Gauhati or would function under the present Keeper of Records, is in a matter for the Assam Government to decide.

(Q) Microfilm of important records in the State Archives

(17) Resolution by Shri F.M. Hassnain

"Resolved that the National Archives of India be asked to microfilm, in a phased manner, all pre-1947 important political records housed in various State Archives Offices in the country."

Explanatory Note

Most of the State Archives offices in the country are not provided with microfilming facilities and it is not possible for them to microfilm their important collections pertaining to pre-1947 political records. The State Archives of Jammu & Kashmir houses very important political records which are available only at Punjab Record Office, Lahore and London Record Office and it is necessary to get these records microfilmed in the interest of research. Similarly, there are very important political records pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir State in the London Record Office which are not available with us. Arrangements for their microfilming shall also have to be done by the National Archives of India.

Standing Committee's views:

The resolution is not clear, as it speaks of post-1947 records while the explanatory note concerns about pre-1947 period. From the note it appears that the matter relates to the acquisition of microfilm from abroad to fill in the gaps in the record holdings of the State Archives.

The National Archives of India already has such a programme on continuing basis and have recently concluded an agreement with the India Office Library and Records for the exchange of microfilms, State Archives can consult the National Archives of India about their requirements of microfilms from abroad and the latter would try to render every assistance in this respect.

(R) Inclusion of representatives of State Archives Universities and Research Institutions in Delegations

(18) Resolution by Shri F.M.Hassnain

"Resolved that henceforth, representatives from State Archives, Universities and Research Institutions of the country be included as members in cultural delegations."

Explanatory Note

Perusal of the list of cultural delegations which went out of the country, deputed by Ministry of Education Culture and Social Welfare, from 1947 reveals that these cultural delegations did not include representatives from the State Archives, State Universities and State Research Institutions. In order to give comprehensive image of our composite culture, it is necessary to include representatives of the State Archives, State Universities and State Research Institutions in these delegations..

Standing Committee's views:

Generally speaking while making the selections for the Delegates, the Government of India takes into consideration the talent and capabilities of the persons rather than their provincial affiliations. In any case, this subject hardly falls within the purview of the Indian Historical Record Commission, as defined in Section 5 II of its constitution.

(S) Creation of an All India Cadre of Archives Services'

(19) Resolution by Shri E.M.Hassnain

"Resolved that the Central Government may create an All India cadre of Archives Services, in consultation with the State Government and till then all appointments in the National Archives of India be made out of the State Archivists."

Explanatory Note

In the country, we have Indian Administrative Service, Indian Forest Service, Indian Police Service, Indian Audit and Accounts Service etc. but no such cadre on all India basis for Archives. Secondly the National Archives of India usually fills up its vacancies by fresh recruits rather than obtaining the services of experienced archivists from State.

Standing Committee's views

The Resolution aims at improving archival work in the country and is laudable to that extent. But as regards appointments in the National Archives of India, these have to be made according to the Recruitment Rules in force.

As per rules, 50% of the Assistant Archivists (Gr.I)/

Archivists/Assistant Directors are recruited in the National Archives of India by open competition through the Union Public Service Commission while 50% of the vacancies are filled by Departmental promotion. The Archivists of the State Governments who fulfil the requisite qualifications are free to apply for the posts, which are always advertised by the Union Public Service Commission in all the leading newspapers. So the latter part of the Resolution should be deleted.

(T) Appointment of Director of Archives

(20) Resolution by Shri J.K.Jain

"Resolved that the posts of the Director of Archives both at the Centre as well as in the States be filled-up by those personnels who possess archival qualifications or an experience of holding some responsible post in an archival repository of the country".

Explanatory Note

The archival science as such is quite nascent in our country and is in need of a lot of encouragement and protection at various levels. In the recent past it has been observed, specially in some of the States that the Archives Departments have either been functioning as a subordinate office of the State Secretariat or an Officer is given charge of the Archives Department who has hardly got experience of the field. This State of affairs is obviously a source of concern to all those who have got a love for the profession and would like to see it to flourish in a desired manner. This august body is, therefore, appraised of the fact so that it may voice its concern by adopting the aforesaid resolution.

Standing Committee's views:

The Resolution focuses attention on a very real and important problem. There are at least four major State Archives which even now are headed by Officers with no archival training or experience, and who are liable to get transferred by the time they pick up adequate knowledge about their technical work. It is necessary that heads of Archival Institutions must be professionally trained persons with adequate experience of archival work, able to guide and train the staff working under them.

(U) Selection from Persian Correspondence

(21) Resolution by Dr. K.P. Srivastava:

"Keeping in view the great importance of the original documents included in the Calendars of Persian Correspondence being published by the National Archives of India the Commission recommends that selection from these documents be published in extenso with translation annotations and critical introduction for the convenience of scholars not knowing Persian."

Explanatory Note:

The Calendars of Persian Correspondence so far published in 11 volumes have been very favourably reviewed by eminent historians like late Dr. N.K. Sinha, Dr. K.A. Nilkanta Sastri, Professor S. Nurul Hasan and Professor J.N. Sarkar. Importance of the documents included in the series cannot therefore be overemphasized. It is therefore suggested that a small committee consisting of the following members of the Commission be constituted to advise and supervise such selections:-

1. Dr. B.P. Saksena ... Chairman
Ex-Professor and Head of
the Department of History,
Allahabad University,
Allahabad.

2. Dr. Irfan Habib, ... Member
Professor and Head of the
Department of History,
Aligarh Muslim University,
Aligarh.
3. Dr. Azhar Ansari, ... Member
Professor and Head of the
Department of Indian
History and Culture,
Jamia Millia,
New Delhi.
4. Shri S.A.I. Tirmizi, ... Member
Deputy Director of Archives,
National Archives of India,
New Delhi.
5. Dr. K.P. Srivastava, ... Member-Secretary
Director of Archives,
Uttar Pradesh,
Lucknow.

Standing Committee's views:-

Commended for consideration of the Commission.

(V) Formation of a Committee to study appropriate qualifications and pay-scales for the professional posts in the National Archives of India and State Archives

(29) Resolution by Prof. O.P. Bhatnagar

"Keeping in view the crucial role of Archivists in identifying and preserving important records on which all genuine historical research is based, and the consequent necessity of attracting competent and scholarly persons to this profession, the Government of India is requested to form

a Committee headed by the Chairman of the Standing Committee and with representatives of Ministry of Finance, University Grants Commission, etc., as members, to recommend appropriate qualifications and pay-scales for the different professional posts in the National Archives of India and the State Archives."

Explanatory Note:

The role of the Archivists is of utmost importance in selecting and preserving records of historical value, in preparing their finding-aids, etc. If the work of the archivist is of indifferent quality, valuable records would be lost for ever, and historical research will suffer throughout the country. It is necessary, therefore, to attract men and women of high calibre to this crucial and small profession. With the recent and laudable revision upwards of the pay scales of Lecturers, Readers and Professors in the Universities, there is a clear danger of archivists leaving their profession to join universities, and only the rejects from universities coming to the archival profession. The new pay scales for Readers is upto Rs.1900/-, while in the National Archives, the Assistant Directors with twenty years of service behind them, and after several promotions earned against stiff competition, go upto only Rs.1600/-, and even Deputy Directors, go upto only Rs.1700/-. The pay scales in State Archives are lower, and even the Directors of the most important State Archives go upto only about Rs.1500/-. Formerly the Director of the National Archives of India had a pay-scale slightly

... better than the pay scale of a University Professor. Now it is much lower. The senior staff are expected to be scholars as well as administrators, with large staff to guide and control. The low pay-scales are likely to result in low quality among the archivists, with the result that historical research will suffer, and our unique archival wealth will be endangered. It appears necessary, therefore, for the Commission to take note of these problems, and to make suitable recommendation to the Government for early action.

Standing Committee's views:

Commended for consideration of the Commission.

(W) Establishment of an Oral History Record Office

(23) Resolution by Prof. O.P. Bhatnagar

"Resolved that an Oral History Record Office be established as a part of the National Archives whose purpose should be to record on tape and then transcribe the recollections of men who have played an important part in recent history as well as the reactions of those who have seen history made."

Standing Committee's views:

Commended for consideration of the Commission.

(X) Construction of the Annexe to the
National Archives of India

(24) Resolution by Shri V.G. Khobrekar

"While congratulating the Union Minister for Education for implementing several long-awaited reforms, such as the promulgation of the Archival Policy Resolution and elevation of the National Archives of India as an Attached Office of the Ministry, the Commission reiterates the urgency of constructing the proposed Annexe to the National Archives of India as quickly as possible, as without it no significant improvement in the preservation and utilisation of archives is now possible."

Explanatory Note:

The regime of Prof. S. Nurul Hasan as Education Minister has seen tremendous improvements in the scope and functioning of the National Archives, which is the natural leader and pace setter for all the Archival instructions in the country. The Archival Policy Resolution was passed in 1972; the Attached Office status was notified in 1975; many publications have been brought out; exhibitions held, and a new image of the National Archives of India has been projected abroad. The National Archives has worked out and started implementing a large number of plan schemes, with the result that stagnation and resultant frustrations among

the officers and staff are now things of the past. The biggest hurdle in the further progress of the National Archives of India is lack of accommodation. The construction of the Annexe building has been under consideration of the Government since 1945. Any further delay in this construction will not only hamper the work of this national institution but will also place serious hardships and difficulties on the scholars, and result in further increase in the construction costs.

Standing Committee's views:

Commended for consideration of the Commission.

PART II

Report of the Committee for enacting legislation on
Records of National Importance

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Composition of the Committee

1. The Government of India constituted on 11 March 1975 the Committee consisting of the following members in pursuance of Resolution V of the 43rd Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission held in January 1975 (vide Department of Culture letter No.F.8-7/75-CAI(2) dated the 11 March 1975), 'to study the implementation of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972, and to make recommendations for enacting legislation regarding records of national importance, which may be less than 75 years old':

- (i) Prof. Bisheshwar Prasad, Allahabad ... Chairman
- (ii) Prof. S. Bhattacharya,
Jawahar Lal Nehru University .. Member
- (iii) A representative of the Director
General of Archaeological Survey
of India .. Member
- (iv) A representative of the Ministry
of Law & Justice and Company
Affairs .. Member
- (v) Km. D.G. Keswani,
Officer on Special Duty,
National Archives of India .. Member-
Secretary

The Director General of Archaeology and the Ministry of Law & Justice and Company Affairs subsequently nominated the undermentioned Officers as their representatives on the Committee :

Dr. N.R. Banerjee, Director (Antiquities)

Shrimati Rama Devi, Additional Legislative Counsel,
Legislative Department.

On 9 April 1975, Shri K.D. Gupta, Archivist, National Archives of India, was co-opted as an additional member.

Terms of reference

2. Under the terms of reference, the Committee is to study the implications of the resolution of the Indian Historical Records Commission and submit its report to the Standing Committee of the Commission at an early date (vide Memorandum No.F.4-5/75-C dated the 20-5-75 from the National Archives of India).

Meetings

3. The Committee held three meetings during its term, viz., on 9 April, 6 May and 26 September 1975. In its first meeting the Committee had general discussion on the resume circulated to the members earlier, giving the background history of the action taken by the National Archives of India previously in enacting legislation on records of national importance, and also to acquaint itself with the difficulties encountered by the Archaeological Survey of India in implementing the Antiquities & Art Treasures Act, 1972. In the Second meeting the Committee engaged itself in preparing a draft Bill, defining the categories of records less than 75 years old, which may be considered to be of historical value and of national importance, and suggesting preventive measures against their illegal export and wilful destruction. While compiling the draft Bill, the Committee kept in view such provisions contained in the Antiquities Act, as were applicable in the case of the proposed legislation, and also examined the draft Bill prepared by the National Archives of India earlier in consultation with the Archaeological Survey of India and the Ministry of Law. The last meeting of the Committee finalised the draft. A copy of the draft Bill is submitted to the Government.

Recommendations

The Committee assumes that before introducing the Bill to the Parliament, the Government of India will seek the opinion of the Ministry of Law, and that the necessary administrative action involved in its introduction will also be taken by the Government. The Committee has not worked out the financial implications for implementation of the proposed Act, but has only suggested the administrative machinery which, it considered, would be necessary for effective working of the Act. Taking all these factors into consideration, the Committee makes the following recommendations :

- (1) that the opinion of the Department of Legal Affairs be obtained about the legal competence of enacting of this Bill within the frame work of Entry 67 in List I of the Constitution of India
- (2) that before the enactment of the proposed Bill, the Government of India should strictly enforce the existing provisions in the Customs Act of 1962 to prevent illegal export of records and manuscripts of historical importance
- (3) that for purposes of notification in the Official Gazette, as required under Section 3(c), the following broad categories of individuals and institutions are envisaged: public leaders, eminent persons in various spheres of activities, retired high officials, important collections and libraries of individuals, personal collections of princely houses, zamindars, taluqdars etc., minority institutions (linguistic, religious, educational etc.), tribal organisations, social, cultural and economic

organisations, other than those owned or controlled by the Government.

(4) that the Draft Bill should be circulated to all the State Governments and Union Territories seeking their opinion on the same

(5) that copies of the same should also be circulated to the Heads of the Archives Offices in the States and Union Territories, wherever such an Archives Organisation is in existence

(6) that the opinion of the Ministry of Law & Justice be ascertained, if necessary, whether the Supreme Court and the High Courts can be brought within the scope of the proposed Act in consultation with those bodies

(7) that the following minimum staff for Registration of institutions/individuals possessing records etc., according to the provisions in the proposed Act, should be provided :

Major States: Each State should have a Registrar, equivalent to that of the rank of an Assistant Director in the National Archives of India, with 2 Archivists, 2 Assistant Archivists (Gr.I), 1 Stenographer, 2 LDCs and 2 Class IV.

Smaller States: Each State to have 1 Assistant Registrar in the grade of the Archivist in the National Archives of India, 1 Lower Division Clerk and 1 Class IV.

Note: For various States in the Eastern Region in Assam, a combined Unit may be set up at the initial stage if

(8) that the various Registration Units to be set up in the States should work in close collaboration with

similar bodies to be set up by the Archaeological Survey of India for implementation of the Antiquities & Art Treasures Act

- (9) that efforts should be made to set up all the State Units simultaneously to enable effecting implementation of the proposed Act
- (10) that the recommendations of the Committee, as contained in the Draft Bill, regarding Registration and Licensing, be forwarded to important business houses, banks etc., soliciting their opinions on the same
- (11) that the Rules to be framed, as provided in Section 33 of the Draft Bill, should, inter-alia, make specific provision authorising persons to take legal action for violating any provision of the proposed Act
- (12) that the Rules should also provide for fixing of the rank (not normally to be below the rank of a Joint Secretary), who may be permitted to carry official papers abroad.

Sd/-(Bisheshwar Prasad)
Chairman

Sd/-(Smt. Rama Devi)
Member

Sd/- (N.R. Banerjee)
Member

Sd/- (S. Bhattacharya)
Member

Sd/- (K.D. Gupta)
Member

Sd/- (Kumari D.G. Keswani)
Member-Secretary

DRAFT BILL FOR RECORDS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

SHORT TITLE OF THE ACT.

"Records of National Importance Act....."

LONG TITLE OF THE ACT.

A Bill to regulate the export of records of national importance which are less than 75 years old to provide for the compulsory acquisition of records of national importance which are less than 75 years old for preservation in public institutions, to provide for the prevention of unwarranted destruction and smuggling of and fraudulent dealing in records, to provide for registration of records of national importance whether they are more than 75 years old or not and to provide for certain other matters connected therewith or incidental or ancillary thereto.

1 (1) This Act may be called the Records of National Importance Act,.....

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act, and for different States and any reference in any such provision to the commencement of this Act shall be construed as a reference to the coming into the force of that provision.

2. Definitions:

(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:-

(a) "Records" mean -

any document, manuscript, pamphlet, tract, book, photograph, picture, microfilm, microfiche, sound recordings, drawing, map, codex, register, ledger, or other document of any physical form or character or any copy thereof.

(b) "export" means taking out of India to a place outside India.

(c) "Registering Officer" means an officer appointed as such under section 17.

(d) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

(2) Any reference in this Act to any law which is not in force in any area shall, in relation to that area be construed as a reference to the corresponding law, if any, in force in that area.

3. Records of National Importance

(a) On and from the commencement of this Act, all records belonging to or in possession of any public archival repository shall be considered to be records of National Importance.

(b) All records of enduring value and/or of historical importance in the custody of the autonomous bodies, public undertakings, corporate bodies and established business houses of all-India importance, religious institutions, registered organisations etc., other than those owned or controlled by Government shall be similarly considered to be records of national importance.

(c) In addition, the Central Government may, from time to time, by notification in the Official Gazettee specify such other records as are considered by Government to be of national importance on account of their historical, sentimental, or aesthetic value to be records of national importance.

Explanation. The broad categories of organisations envisaged under Sub-clause (b) above, are: Supreme Court, High Courts, Bar Libraries, local bodies, public corporations, Chamber of Commerce, Political organisations of all-India character, industrial and commercial organisations of all-India importance, banks, important religious foundations, Universities (more than 25 years old), Colleges (at least 75 years old) etc.

Sub-Section (c) will include public leaders, eminent persons in various spheres of activities, retired high officials, important collections and libraries of individuals, personal collections of princely houses, zamindars, taluqdars etc., minority institutions (linguistic, religious, educational etc.), tribal organisations, social, cultural and economic organisations, other than those owned or controlled by the Government.

4. Regulations of export trade in records of national importance less than 75 years old

(1) On and from the commencement of this Act, it shall not be lawful for any person, other than the Central Government or any authority or agency authorised by the Central Government in this behalf, to export any records of national importance which may be less than 75 years old.

(2) Whenever the Central Government or any authority or agency referred to in sub-section (1) intends to export any record such export shall be made only under and in accordance with the terms and conditions of a permit issued for the purpose by such authority as may be prescribed.

5. The Customs Act, 1962 shall have effect in relation to all records, the export of which by any person (other than the Central Government or any authority or agency authorized by the Central Government) is prohibited under section 4 save in so far as that Act is inconsistent with the Provisions of this Act and except that (notwithstanding anything contained in Section 125 of that Act) any confiscation authorized under that Act shall be made unless the Central Government on an application made to it in this behalf, otherwise directs.

6. Regulation for weeding of records:

Notwithstanding the provisions contained in any law, it shall not be lawful for any archives repository or institution as stipulated in Sub-Sections (a), (b) and (c) of Section 3, to weed out any record or destroy them except in accordance with the rules made in this behalf from time to time.

7. Regulation for licensing of records:

On and from the expiry of a period of two months of the commencement of this Act, no person shall himself or by any other person on his behalf carry on the business of selling or offering to sell any record, document, manuscript etc., as defined under Section 3, except under and in accordance with the terms and conditions of a licence granted under Section 10.

8. The Central Government may, by notified orders, -

(a) appoint such persons being gazetted officers of Government, as it thinks fit, to be licensing officers for the purpose of this Act;

(b) define the limits of the area within which a licensing officer shall exercise the powers conferred on licensing officers by or under this Act.

9. (1) Any person desiring to carry on, himself or by any other person on his behalf, the business of selling or offering to sell any record, documents, manuscripts etc., may make an application for the grant of a licence to the licensing officer having jurisdiction.

(2) Every application under sub-section (1) shall be made in such form and shall contain in such particulars as may be prescribed.

10. (1) On receipt of an application for the grant of a licence under section 9, the licensing officer may, after holding such inquiry as he deems fit grant a licence to the applicant having regard to the following factors, namely:-

(a) the experience of the applicant with respect to trade in records, documents, manuscripts etc.;

(b) the village, town or city where the applicant intends to carry on business;

(c) the number of persons already engaged in the business of selling, or offering for sale of, records etc. in the said village, town or city, and

(d) Such other factors as may be prescribed:

Provided that no licence shall be granted to the applicant if he is convicted of an offence punishable under the Antiquities (Export Control) Act, 1947 (31 of 1947) unless a period of ten years has elapsed since the date of the conviction.

(2) Every licence granted under this section shall be on payment of such fees as may be prescribed.

(3) Every licence granted under this section shall be for such period, subject to such conditions and in such form and shall contain such particulars, as may be prescribed.

(4) No application for the grant of a licence made under section 9 shall be rejected unless the applicant has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in the matter.

11. (1) A licence granted under section 10 may, on an application made by the licensee, be renewed by the licensing officer for such period and on payment of such fees as may be prescribed.

(2) No application made under this section shall be rejected unless the applicant has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in the matter.

12. (1) Every holder of a licence granted under section 10 or renewed under section 11 shall maintain such records, and registers, in such manner and containing such particulars, as may be prescribed.

(2) Every record and register maintained under sub-section (1) shall, at all reasonable times, be open to inspection by the licensing officer or by any other gazetted officer of Government authorised in writing by the licensing officer in this behalf.

13. (1) If the licensing officer is satisfied either on a reference made to him in this behalf or otherwise that -

(a) a licence granted under section 10 has been obtained by misrepresentation of an essential fact, or

(b) the holder of a licence has, without reasonable cause, failed to comply with the conditions subject to which the licence has been granted or has contravened any of the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder, then, without prejudice to any other penalty to which the holder of the licence may be liable under this Act, the licensing officer may, after giving the holder of the licence an opportunity of showing cause, revoke or suspend the licence.

(2) Subject to any rules that may be made in this behalf, the licensing officer may also vary or amend a licence granted under section 10.

14. Notwithstanding anything contained in section 7, any person whose licence has been revoked under section 13 may, after making a declaration before the licensing officer, within such period, in such form and in such manner, as may be prescribed, of all the records, documents etc., in his ownership, control or possession immediately before such revocation, sell such records etc., to any other person holding a valid licence under this Act:

Provided that no such record shall be sold after the expiry of a period of six months from the date of revocation of the licence.

15. (1) If the Central Government is of opinion that with a view to conserving records, documents, manuscripts etc., or in the public interest it is necessary or expedient so to do, it may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare that with effect on and from such date as may be specified in the notification, the Central Government or any authority or agency authorised by the Central Government in this behalf shall alone be entitled to carry on the business of selling or offering for sale of such records.

(2) On the issue of a notification under sub-section (1) -

(a) it shall not be lawful for any person, authority or agency, other than the Central Government or any authority or agency authorized by the Central Government, to carry on the business of selling or offering for sale any record, document, manuscript etc., on and from the date specified therein;

(b) the provisions of this Act, in so far as they relate to the licensing of persons carrying on the business of selling or offering for sale of records etc., shall cease to have effect except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such cesser of operation and section 6 of the General Clauses Act, 1897 (10 of 1897) shall apply upon such cesser of operation as if those provisions had been repealed by a Central Act:

Provided that every licence granted under section 10 and in force on the date aforesaid shall, notwithstanding that the period specified therein has not expired, cease to be in force.

(3) Every person whose licence has ceased to be in force under the proviso to clause (b) of sub-section (2) shall, within such period, in such form and in such manner as may be prescribed, make a declaration before the licensing officer of all the records etc., in his ownership, control or possession immediately before the date specified in the notification issued under sub-section (1).

16. Registration of Records

(1) The Central Government may from time to time by notification in the Official Gazette, specify those categories of records of national importance which shall be registered under this Act.

(2) In specifying categories of records in sub-section (1) above, the Central Government shall have regard to the following factors, namely:-

- i) the need to preserve records within India as important source materials for the history of the country;
- ii) the need to preserve records valuable to the nation from the aesthetic or sentimental point of view; and
- iii) such other factors as will, or are likely to, contribute to the conservation and safeguarding of the cultural heritage of India.

(3) Every person who owns, or is in possession of any records of national importance as may be specified under sub-section (1) above, shall register such records and documents before the Registering Officer mentioned under section 17 of this Act.

- (a) in the case of a person who owns or possesses such records on the date of issue of such notification, within three months of such date; and
- (b) in the case of any other person, within fifteen days of the date on which he takes the ownership, or possession either by legal succession, or by transfer of ownership of such records, and obtain a certificate in token of such registration;

Provided that the period of three months laid down in section 16(3)(a) may be extended by another three months by the Registering Officer, if considered necessary.

17. The Central Government may, by notified order -

- (a) appoint such person or persons, as it thinks fit, to be Registering Officer(s) for the purpose of this Act, and
- (b) define the limits of the area within which a Registering Officer shall exercise his authority under this Act.

18. (1) Every person required to register any record of national importance under Section 16, shall make an application to the Registering Officer giving such information and particulars as may be prescribed, for the grant of a certificate of registration.

(2) The Registering Officer may after holding such enquiry as he considers necessary grant a certificate of registration to an applicant containing such particulars and in such form as may be prescribed provided that a Registering Officer shall have power to make copies photographic or otherwise, of such records if he considers it necessary.

(3) No application made under this section shall be rejected unless the applicant has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in the matter.

19. Whenever any person transfers the ownership, control or possession of any record specified in any notification issued under sub-section (1) of section 18 such person shall intimate, within such period and in such form as may be prescribed, the fact of such transfer to the Registering Officer.

20. Nothing in sections 16, 17 and 18 shall apply to any record of national importance kept in an archives repository office, library, museum, educational or cultural institutions which is owned, controlled or managed by Government.

21. Compulsory Acquisition by Government

(1) If the Central Government is of opinion that it is desirable to preserve any record of national importance which is less than 75 years old in a public institution, that Government may make an order for the compulsory acquisition of such record.

(2) On the making of an order under sub-section (1) the Collector of the district in which such record is kept shall give notice to the owner thereof, intimating him of the decision of the Central Government to acquire the same and it shall be lawful for the Collector to take possession of such record, for which purpose the Collector may use such forces as may be necessary.

(3) Where the owner of any record, the possession of which has been taken over by the Collector under sub-section (2), objects to the taking over such possession, he may, within a period of thirty days from the date on which such possession was taken over, make a representation to the Central Government putting forth his objections:

Provided that the Central Government may entertain the representation after the expiry of the said period of thirty days, if it is satisfied that the owner of such records was prevented by sufficient cause from making the representation in time.

(4) On receipt of any representation under sub-section (3) the Central Government, after making such enquiry - as it deems fit and after giving to the objector an opportunity of being heard in the matter, shall within a period of ninety days from the date of receipt of the representation, either rescind or confirm the order made by it under sub-section (1).

(5) Where any order made by the Central Government under sub-section (1) is rescinded under sub-section (4), the record shall be returned to the owner thereof without delay and at the expense of the Central Government.

(6) Where the order made by the Central Government under sub-section (1) is confirmed under sub-section (4), the record shall vest in the Central Government with effect from the date on which the possession thereof has been taken over by the Collector under sub-section (2).

(7) The power of compulsory acquisition conferred by this section shall not extend to any record, used for bona fide religious observances.

Explanation - In this section, "public institution" means any institution referred to in sub-sections (a) and (b) of section 3, which is open to the use of the public whether on payment of fees or not, or whether it is actually used by the public or not.

22. Payment of Compensation

(1) Where a record of national importance which is less than 75 years old is compulsorily acquired under section 21, there shall be paid compensation, the amount of which shall be determined in the manner and in accordance with the principles hereinafter set out, that is to say: -

(a) where the amount of compensation can be fixed by agreement, it shall be paid in accordance with such agreement;

(b) where no such agreement can be reached, the Central Government shall appoint as arbitrator a person who is or has been or is qualified for appointment as a Judge of a High Court;

(c) the Central Government may, in any particular case, nominate a person having expert knowledge as to the nature of the record compulsorily acquired to assist the arbitrator and where such nomination is made, the person to be compensated may also nominate an assessor for the same purpose;

(d) at the commencement of the proceedings before the arbitrator the Central Government and the person to be compensated shall state what, in their respective opinion, is a fair amount of compensation;

(e) the arbitrator shall after hearing the dispute, make an award determining the amount of compensation which appears to him to be just and specifying the person or persons to whom such compensation shall be paid and in making the award he shall have regard to the circumstances of such case and the provisions of sub-section (2).

(f) where there is any dispute as to the person or persons who are entitled to the compensation, the arbitrator shall decide such dispute and if the arbitrator finds that more persons than one are entitled to compensation, he shall apportion the amount thereof amongst such persons;

(g) nothing in the Arbitration Act 1940 shall apply to arbitration under this section.

(2) While determining the compensation under sub-section (1) above the arbitrator shall have regard to the following factors:

(i) the date or period to which a record or document belongs;

(ii) the historical, cultural, artistic, sentimental or aesthetic importance of the records; and

(iii) such other matters as are relevant to the dispute.

23. Appeals against the decisions of Licensing and Registering Officer

Any person aggrieved by decision of the Licensing Officer under section 13 by a decision of a Registering Officer under section 18 may, within 30 days from the date on which the decision is communicated to him prefer an appeal to such authority as may be prescribed.

Provided that the appellate authority may entertain the appeal after the expiry of the said period of thirty days if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from filing the appeal in time.

24. Appeal against award of arbitrator

Any person aggrieved by an award of the arbitrator made under section 22 may within thirty days from the date on which the award is communicated to him prefer an appeal to the High Court within whose jurisdiction he resides.

Provided that the High Court may entertain the appeal after the expiry of the said period of thirty days if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by a sufficient cause from filing the appeal in time.

25. (1) Any person, being an officer of Government authorised in this behalf by the Central Government may with a view to securing compliance with the provisions of this Act or to satisfying himself that the provisions of this Act have been complied with

(i) enter and search any place,

(ii) seize any record of national importance in respect of which he suspects that any provision of this Act has been, is being or is about to be, contravened and thereafter take all measures necessary for securing the production of the record so seized in a court and for its safe custody, pending such production.

(2) The provisions of section 102 and 103 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 relating to search and seizure shall, so far as may be, apply to searches and seizures under this section.

26. If any question arises whether a record is or is not of national importance for the purposes of this Act, it shall be referred to the Director of Archives, National Archives of India or to an officer not below the rank of a Deputy Director in the National Archives of India, and the decision of the Director of Archives, National Archives of India or such officer, as the case may be, on such question shall be final.

27. Penalty

(1) If any person, himself or by any other person on his behalf, exports or attempts to export or wilfully destroys or attempts to destroy any record in contravention of section 4 he shall, without prejudice to any confiscation or penalty to which he may be liable under the provision of the Customs Act, 1962 as applied by section 5, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months but which may extend to three years, and with fine.

(2) If any person contravenes the provision of section 18 or section 19 he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine or with both and the antiquity in respect of which the offence has been committed shall be liable to confiscation.

(3) If any person prevents any officer authorized by the Central Government under sub-section (1) of section 23, from entering into or searching any place under that sub-section, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both.

28. Cognizance of offences

(1) No prosecution for an offence under sub-section (1) of a section 27 shall be instituted except by or with the sanction of such officer of Government as may be prescribed in this behalf.

(2) No court shall take cognizance of an offence punishable under sub-section (2) or sub-section (3) of section 27 except upon complaint in writing made by an officer generally or specially authorized in his behalf by the Central Government.

(3) No court inferior to that of a Presidency Magistrate or a Magistrate of the First Class shall try any offence punishable under this Act.

29. Magistrate's power to impose enhanced penalties

Notwithstanding anything contained in section 32 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, it shall be lawful for any Presidency Magistrate or any Magistrate of the First Class to

pass any sentence under this Act in excess of his power under section 32 of the said Code.

30. Offences by companies

(1) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company, every person who at the time the offence was committed/in charge of, or was responsible to, the company for the conduct of business of the company, as well as the company shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to any punishment under this Act if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where an offence under this Act has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to, any neglect on the part of any director, manager, secretary or other officer of the company, such director, manager, secretary or other officer shall also be deemed to be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Explanation - For the purpose of this section, -

(a) "company" means any body corporate and includes a firm or other association of individuals as mentioned in sub-section (b) and (c) of section 3; and

(b) "director" in relation to a firm, means a partner in the firm.

31. Protection of action taken in good faith

No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Government or any officer of the Government for anything which is in good faith done or is intended to be done under this Act.

32. Application of other laws not barred

The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of the provisions of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972, or any other law for the time being in force.

33. Power to make rules

(1) The Central Government may by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for the purpose of giving effect to the provision of this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for -

(a) the authority for issue of permit under sub-section (2) of section 4;

(b) The information and particulars to accompany an application to the Registering Officer for the grant of a certificate of registration under sub-section (1) of section 18 and the form of and the particulars which a certificate of registration granted under sub-section (2) of section 18 shall contain.

(c) the form in which an application for the grant of and licence made under sub-section (1) of section 9 and the particulars which such application shall contain;

(d) the factors to which regard may be made had while granting a licence under sub-section (1) of section 10;

(e) the fees on payment of which, the period for which, the conditions subjects to which and the form in which a licence may be granted under sub-section (1) of section 10 and the particulars which such licence shall contain;

(f) the fees on payment of which the period for which a licence may be renewed under sub-section (1) of section 11;

(g) the authority to which the appeal may be preferred under section 13; and

(h) any other matter which has to be or may be prescribed.

(3) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament while it is in session for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

ANNEXURE

Conspectus of action taken on previous
Resolutions and Recommendations of the
Indian Historical Records Commission
(38th to 43rd Sessions)

Conspectus of action taken on previous
Resolutions and Recommendations of the
Indian Historical Records Commission
(38th to 43rd Sessions)

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Further to the information placed before the Commission at its 43rd and earlier Sessions on the resolutions and recommendations of the 38th to 42nd Sessions, replies received from the State Governments, Universities, Learned Institutions and others are summarised below.

Resolution X: The Commission resolves that all necessary steps be taken by the Regional Records Survey Committees and the State Archives to find out which business houses or private businessmen are willing to make their records available for research, prepare a preliminary inventory of such records, and help in their arrangement and preservation.

Himachal Pradesh: The contents of the Resolution have been noted and these would be kept in view as and when the Department of Archives is established in this State.

Resolution XI: The Commission resolves that the State Governments concerned be requested to place adequate funds at the disposal of the Regional Records Survey Committees in States wherein they have been constituted for purchase of records discovered in the course of survey, wherever that is necessary.

The Commission further resolves that the papers acquired by the Regional Records Survey Committees be deposited at the respective State Archives and made available for research.

Himachal Pradesh: There is neither a Regional Records Survey Committee nor Archives Department in this State at present. The question of providing funds for the purchase of records does not, therefore, arise.

Gujarat: The Government of Gujarat has constituted the Regional Records Survey Committee and its first meeting was held on 10 December 1974. As the survey work proceeds, the financial needs of the Committee will become known.

At present the amount will be spent from the contingent grant placed at the disposal of the State Archives.*

II.

Resolutions of the 40th Session, Madras
18-20 February, 1970.

Resolution II: The Commission requests the Secretary to discuss the question of access to the old records of the State Bank of India, especially the papers of the Presidency Banks, with the authorities of the State Bank of India personally and try to obtain their permission so that scholars may be able to consult them.

National Archives of India: The State Bank of India has agreed to transfer to the National Archives of India the records of the Presidency Banks (1806-1920). A special Committee consisting of the representatives of the Ministries of Education & Social Welfare, Finance, Law & Justice, State Bank of India, Bombay and the Director of Archives, National Archives of India has been formed to examine the overall question of transfer of the records and giving access to them to the scholars. The Committee has so far met twice, on 10th January and 6th May 1975.

It may be added that the State Bank of India has taken up the project of writing history of the Imperial Bank of India (1806-1955) and a number of officers are collecting materials in this behalf under the guidance of

* N.B: No reply has been received with regard to the Resolutions passed at the 39th Session of the IHRC held at Patna in December, 1968.

Resolution VIII: The Commission resolves that to facilitate the consultation of records preserved by them the Records Repositories of the State Governments be requested to prepare and publish consolidated guides to their pre-Independence records.

Rajasthan: The Rajasthan State Archives had already taken up the work of preparing a General Hand-Book to the Records under its custody which will cover all the former States of Rajasthan.

Jammu & Kashmir: The Government has been approached in this behalf to provide more staff to the Archives Department to take up the publication schemes of this Department.

Uttar Pradesh: A Hand-Book to the Records of the State Archives has been published.

Karnataka: Efforts will be made for the implementation of the recommendation.

Delhi: Delhi Archives is at present conserving pre-Independence records and as and when it is completed necessary guide will be prepared.

Bihar: Six publications of pre-Independence records have already been published by the State Archives to facilitate the research work and preparation of guides for other records is under way.

Pondicherry: The Archives section is in the initial stage of reorganisation. Steps are being taken to implement the resolution gradually.

Resolution IX: To facilitate genuine research work at the State Archives, the Commission resolves to recommend to the State Governments to dispense with the scrutiny of excerpts taken by research scholars from all 'open' records.

Jammu & Kashmir: This requires amendment to the Historical Research Rules which will be considered in course of time.

Bihar: Action is being taken by the Government.

Karnataka: Efforts will be made to implement the recommendation.

Delhi: The notes and excerpts should be released to the research scholars after scrutiny.

Maharashtra: Excerpts taken by bona-fide research scholars are not required to be submitted for scrutiny.

Pondicherry: The Archives section is in the initial stage of reorganisation. Steps are being taken to implement the resolution gradually.

Resolution XIII: The Commission resolves to recommend to the State Governments that the records of the National movement, especially from 1885-1947, in the custody of the offices of the Home Department and other Offices/Departments and quasi-Government Offices may be transferred to the State Archives and thrown open for research where this has not been done already.

Delhi: Records pertaining to freedom movements are available in the offices of the Deputy Commissioner, IG(Police) and Central Jail. The Deputy Commissioner, Delhi, has agreed to transfer the records upto 1947 and about 8000 files have been received while the Central Jail, New Delhi has sent registers of the convicts from 1899 to 1950. The police authorities have declined to transfer the records in question.

Jammu & Kashmir: The records under question cannot be thrown open for research purposes as some of the freedom fighters are still living and there is a great apprehension of controversies.

Bihar: The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Maharashtra: All the State Government records upto 1945 are declared 'open' for bona fide research scholars.

Karnataka: Efforts will be made to implement the resolution.

Pondicherry: The Archives section is in the initial stage of reorganisation. Steps are being taken to implement the resolution.

Resolution XV: The Commission resolves that the National Archives be requested to procure and preserve copies of Annual Administration Reports of the States and reports of various Committees and Commissions published by the State Governments and the Centrally Administered Areas for the use of research scholars.

National Archives of India: The National Archives of India has received the Annual Administration Reports during 1975 from the following State Governments and Union Territories: (1) Delhi, (2) Bihar, (3) Gujarat, (4) Haryana, (5) Kerala, (6) Madhya Pradesh, (7) Maharashtra, (8) Mysore, (9) Andaman & Nicobar, (10) Orissa, (11) Punjab, (12) Pondicherry, (13) Tamil Nadu and (14) Uttar Pradesh.

With the other Governments, the matter is still being pursued.

Resolution XVI: The Commission recommends that a typed copy of all theses bearing on Modern Indian History, approved by Indian Universities for the award of Ph.D. Degree should be deposited in the National Archives of India for consultation by scholars as soon as the result is declared. Where Universities find it difficult to deposit a copy in the National Archives, one should be sent to it to be microfilmed for the use of the scholars.

Lucknow University: Lucknow University has sent a copy of Ph.D. theses to this Department for being microfilmed

Resolution XVII: The Commission notices that the State Archives in a number of States are issuing Indexes, Lists, Calendars and other invaluable record publications, but the number of copies printed is very limited. The Commission recommends that the institutions concerned should print not less than 500 copies, and the same should be supplied free of cost to all University Libraries, post-graduate centres of historical research, learned institutions, and premier libraries.

Jammu & Kashmir: The Resolution made by the Commission will be carried out.

Bihar: Action is being taken by the Government.

Delhi: The Resolution has been noted for future guidance and the Administration would supply copies of indexes etc. free of cost to the Universities and Learned Institutions etc. as and when the same are published.

Karnataka: The Resolution has been noted and necessary action will be taken in due course.

Assam: Department concerned is being reminded for an early decision in respect of the resolution.

Pondicherry: The Archives section is in the initial stage of reorganisation. Steps are being taken to implement the resolution.

III.

Resolutions of the 41st Session, Trivandrum,
9-11 October, 1971.

Resolution III: The Indian Historical Records Commission places on record its appreciation of the steps taken by the National Archives of India during the last two years for expediting the compilation of reference media to the various series of the records in its custody. But, as the volume of records for which the reference media has to be prepared is very large, the Government of India is urged to sanction adequate staff for this essential aspect of archives administration. Similar programmes may be taken up by State Archives Departments also which face the same problem.

West Bengal: The work of compilation of the different types of reference media, viz. preparation of press lists, Descriptive lists, and consolidated Index etc. to the various series of records in the custody of the State Archives is being done regularly. Steps are being taken to expedite the work.

Jammu & Kashmir: The Department has already approached the Government to sanction adequate staff for preparation of reference media to the records in its custody. The programme will be taken up as and when the staff is sanctioned.

Orissa: The necessary steps have been taken for expediting the compilation of reference media to the various series of records in the Orissa State Archives. The preparation of reference media of Balasore revenue records is in progress and the work is expected to be completed by 15th November, 1975.

Tamil Nadu: The Resolution is under consideration of the Government.

Pondicherry: The Archives section of this Union Territory is in the initial stage of re-organisation. Steps are being taken to implement the Resolution gradually.

Resolution IV: Resolved that in the interest of completeness of official records of historical value, weeding of records at the various levels by untrained persons be stopped.

Jammu & Kashmir: The Resolution has been referred to the Government.

Karnataka: Efforts will be made to give effect to the Resolution at the appropriate time to the extent possible.

Pondicherry: The Archives section of this Union Territory is in the initial stage of reorganisation. Steps are being taken to implement the Resolution gradually.

Resolution V: The Commission is of the view that it is imperative to take all necessary steps to ensure the proper maintenance and preservation of all Public Records in the States, whether current, semi-current or non-current. The State Governments are, therefore, requested to implement urgently the recommendations already made by the Commission (vide Resolutions VII and XIII of the 38th Session) and (i) transfer all District Records more than 30 years old to the control of the State Archives, and (ii) declare their Directors of State Archives to be inspecting authority for the non-current records of the State Offices at all levels, as also of the local bodies viz. Municipalities, Zilla Parishads etc. in the State.

West Bengal: The matter is under consideration.

Jammu & Kashmir: The Government has already been approached in this behalf and action therefrom is awaited.

Orissa: Resolution is under active consideration of the Government.

Karnataka: Resolution has been noted and efforts will be made to give effect to it at the appropriate time to the extent possible.

Tamil Nadu: The Resolution is under consideration of the Government.

Pondicherry: The Archives section of this Union Territory is in the initial stage of reorganisation. The steps are being taken to implement the Resolution gradually.

Resolution VI: The Commission reiterates its recommendation earlier made in Resolution VI of the Research and Publication Committee at its 27th meeting, and urges that Archives Departments in India should take early steps to compile lists of their old publications which are still in demand and try to get limited number of their copies reprinted.

Jammu & Kashmir: The Resolution has been noted.

Karnataka: The Resolution has been noted and efforts to will be made/give effect to it at the appropriate time to the extent possible.

Tamil Nadu: The Resolution is under consideration of the Government.

Pondicherry: The Archives section of this Union Territory is in the initial stage of reorganisation. Steps are being taken to implement the Resolution gradually.

Resolution VII: This Commission appeals to the concerned authorities of Temples, Gurdwaras, Churches, Khankahs, Waqfs etc. to allow bonafide research scholars to consult their documents for research purposes, and the scholars who are allowed access to these records may, if necessary, voluntarily prepare the lists of these records.

and

Resolution VIII: This Commission appeals to the authorities maintaining the records of the Temples, Maths, Churches, Mosques, Gurdwaras etc. to ensure their proper preservation, and if possible, to deposit these documents with the various Archives or Learned Institutions for safe custody.

Maharashtra: It will not be practicable to issue letters to all the Trustees to make the records available for research purposes, but letters to the persons, who are desirous of doing research work, requesting the trustees to give necessary cooperation and to make records available, can be issued by the Charity Commissioner of this State. The records available with the Mutwallis can be shown to research scholars, but Mutwallis and Inamdars cannot be compelled to deposit the important old documents with the State Archives.

Rajasthan: The matter has been taken up with the Government, the Commissioner, Devsthan Department and the Secretary, Rajasthan Muslim waqfs Department, Jaipur. Since these bodies do not appear to have any record management system on modern lines, they have been advised to frame rules as well as extend research facilities to scholars.

Karnataka: The Resolution has been noted and efforts will be made to give effect to it at the appropriate time to the extent possible.

Tamil Nadu: The Resolution is under consideration of the Government.

Pondicherry: The Archives section is in the initial stage of reorganisation. Steps are being taken to implement the Resolution gradually.

Resolution IX: The Commission recommends that the Universities may provide facilities for archival training, during the 5th Five-Year Plan period, if the University Grants Commission could provide financial assistance for the purpose.

Agra University: The matter is under consideration of the Academic Council and the Executive Council of the University.

Jamia Millia Islamia: A proposal has been placed before the University Grants Commission for starting a course on archival training.

Dibrugarh: The University has approached the University Grants Commission to sanction the requisite sum under the Fifth Five-Year Plan so that a teacher of this University may undergo archival training.

Lucknow University: The Resolution will be placed before the appropriate academic bodies of the University.

Utkal University: Necessary steps are being taken to provide archival training facility during the Fifth Five-Year Plan in the University.

Punjabi University: The University will avail itself of this opportunity in case financial assistance is made available.

Delhi University: The matter has been considered and it is felt that in view of the fact that N.A.I. is already providing Training in Archives-Keeping, it was thought that the University should not have a course in archival training.

Bangalore University: One year post graduate Diploma Course in Archival Science has been instituted.

Bombay University: It is in favour of providing facilities for archival training during the Fifth Five-Year Plan period. In view of the provision in the service rules for teachers in affiliated colleges for study leave, principals of the colleges be requested to grant paid leave to the teachers who desire to take advantage of the Scheme.

Resolution XI: The Commission places on record its appreciation of the effective and energetic steps taken by its Secretary in implementing some of its important recommendations, such as those concerning the preparation of the Manual of Archives, and the publication of records pertaining to Partition and Transfer of Power, and the compilation of reference media. It also approves of the policy of issuing cyclostyled publications, particularly the reference media to records, with a view to facilitating research. Similar steps may also be taken by the State Directors of Archives.

Jammu & Kashmir: The Resolution has been noted.

Karnataka: The Resolution has been noted and efforts will be made to give effect to it at the appropriate time to the extent possible.

Pondicherry: The Archives section is in the initial stage of reorganisation. Steps are being taken to implement the Resolution gradually.

Resolution XII: Keeping in view the enormous problems created by the evergrowing bulk of records, the Commission appreciates the lead presently given by the National Archives of India and the Department of Administrative Reforms, Government of India, in the sphere of management of the records of the Union Government and their time bound appraisal. It also notes with satisfaction the steps taken by some State Government for weeding of their non-essential records. The Commission urges all those State Governments and Union Territories which have not yet initiated such a programme on a regular basis to do so urgently with a view to economising in the long run on the upkeep and preservation of their permanent records. The concerned governments may consult, if necessary, the National Archives of India for this purpose.

Tamil Nadu: The Resolution is under consideration of the Government.

Pondicherry: The Archives section is in the initial stage of organisation. Steps are being taken to implement the Resolution gradually.

Resolution XIII: The Indian Historical Records Commission recommends to all the State Archives to provide facilities for the supply of microfilms or typed copies of 'Open' records to bonafide research scholars on payment without any undue delay.

Karnataka: The Resolution has been noted and efforts will be made to give effect to it at the appropriate time to the extent possible.

Tamil Nadu: The Resolution is under consideration of the Government.

Pondicherry: The Archives section is in the initial stage of organisation. Steps are being taken to implement the Resolution.

Resolution XIV: Resolved that the State Governments be requested to open Regional, or Divisional archives in each Commissioner's Division, where the non-ephemeral records of all the Collectorates etc. in the Division may be collected and preserved under the overall control and supervision of the Director of the State Archives. This is absolutely essential for the purpose of not only preservation of papers, but also for promoting the writing of regional history.

Gujarat: The Government has placed two Central Records Offices of Rajkot and Baroda under the administrative control of this State Archives. These two offices are to be converted into Regional/Intermediate Repositories where non-ephemeral records of the surrounding Collectorates will be collected.

Jammu & Kashmir: The Government has been requested to establish District Repositories under the overall control of the Director of State Archives.

Tamil Nadu: The Resolution is under the consideration of the Government.

Pondicherry: The Archives section is in the initial stage of reorganisation. Steps are being taken to implement the Resolution gradually.

Resolution XV: Resolved that the Commission recommends to the authorities of the National Archives of India and of the State Archives to make available to bonafide research scholars residential accommodation at reasonable rates. Furthermore, it recommends for the consideration of the Ministry of Education at the Centre and in the States to put up hostels which will cater to the needs of such research scholars.

National Archives of India: A meeting of a group of officers set up by the Department of Culture, Government of India, to examine the question of providing suitable

accommodation at economical rates for scholars coming from outside Delhi and wanting to work in the National Archives of India and Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, was held on 1.12.75. The "group" felt that the Sapru House Hostel offered the best available accommodation, particularly, in view of its central location and reasonable rates of rent. The matter has been taken up with the authorities concerned, and early action is expected.

Jammu & Kashmir: The Government will be requested to allot one room in Reception Centre at Jammu and Srinagar for research scholars when required.

Karnataka: The Resolution has been noted and efforts will be made to give effect to it at the appropriate time to the extent possible.

Pondicherry: The Archives section is in the initial stage of reorganisation. Steps are being taken to implement the Resolution gradually.

Resolutions of the 42nd Session, Panaji (Goa)
5-7 January, 1973.

Resolution II: The Commission reiterates Resolution II of its 33rd Session held in March 1958 recommending that edited texts or calendars of unpublished manuscripts, records or documents, when accompanied by an adequate introduction and critical apparatus should be given the same recognition as original dissertations on arts or science subjects and should be regarded as equally worthy of consideration for the award of a Doctorate Degree. It was further resolved that the matter should be taken up, not only with the various Universities, but also with the Inter-University Board.

Gujarat University: The Resolution has been accepted by the Executive Council of this University.

Saugar University: The Academic Council passed a resolution in this behalf that the consideration of the matter be postponed.

Rajasthan University: If any work related to the edited texts or calendar of unpublished manuscripts, records or documents when accompanied by an adequate introduction and critical apparatus of an outstanding nature, is submitted to the University and the experts to whom it is referred for opinion, find it suitable for the purpose, the same may be considered on its own merits for the award of the Ph.D. degree of the University, provided that the other University requirements are satisfied.

Guru Nanak University: Resolution already exists in this University.

Kerala University: University has had no occasion to consider the Resolution.

Lucknow University: The Resolution will be placed before the appropriate academic body of the University.

Jadavpur University: The work is being carried out by one of the teachers of the University on the diary of Late Hemendra Prasad Ghosh.

Meerut University: The Resolution of the Commission is likely to be accepted by this University and work of editing Historical classics will be allotted as subject for the award of Ph.D. degree.

Delhi University: The Board resolved that as and when any case comes for consideration the same could be considered by the Board on the individual merit on the recommendation of the Department concerned.

Resolution IV: The Commission recommends that suitable notice be taken by the Government of India and the State Governments of the meritorious services of those who had carefully preserved private records, either by preserving those records themselves or by depositing them for safe custody in a properly organised Records Repository or a suitable Learned Institution.

National Archives of India: The Government of India is of the view that such recognition could be in the form of Certificates of Merit and not Tamrapatras which have come to be associated with the recognition of the services rendered by the Freedom Fighters in this country. The National Archives of India has forwarded the names of those persons recommended by the State Governments (Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Andhra - Pradesh, Karnataka, and Bihar) to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, to issue necessary certificates in recognition of their services.

Punjab, Lakshadweep, Delhi and Chandigarh: There is none to be recommended for the grant of Certificate of Merit.

Jammu & Kashmir: Two persons have been recommended in this behalf.

Maharashtra: Necessary information is being collected by the State Archives.

West Bengal: Necessary particulars are being collected.

Uttar Pradesh: The Resolution has been accepted. The names of the persons who will donate the papers to the Repositories for scientific preservation would be sent to the Government of India for issuing Certificates of Merit.

Kerala: Three persons have been recommended in this behalf.

Andhra Pradesh: Four persons have been recommended in this behalf.

Karnataka: One person has been recommended in this behalf.

Bihar: Four persons have been recommended in this behalf.

Resolution V: Resolved that all necessary and feasible steps be taken to save from destruction the balance sheets and other connected papers which are submitted by Indian business firms to the Registrars of Companies in various States.

Uttar Pradesh: Government is being requested to issue necessary instruction to the Registrars of Companies to save from destruction the balance sheets and other connected papers which are submitted by Indian firms to the Registrars of the Companies.

Orissa: The Resolution is under active consideration of the Government.

West Bengal: The matter has been brought to the notice of the Registrar of Companies, Government of India, Calcutta and to the Registrar of Firms, Societies and Non-Trading Corporations, Government of West Bengal.

Karnataka: Efforts will be made to secure implementation of the Resolution.

Punjab: Letter to the Registrar of Companies, Punjab, Jullundar, has been issued to take action on the Resolution.

Pondicherry: The Archives Section is in the initial stage of reorganisation. Steps are being taken to implement the resolution gradually.

Kerala: The Government is being requested by the State Archives to pursue such action as they deem fit on the Resolution.

Tamil Nadu: The Resolution is under consideration.

Resolution VI: Resolved that, keeping in view the urgency of salvaging and preserving the extremely valuable Government records lying in various offices in the District Headquarters and in the various field offices of the Central and State Governments, the Central and State Governments be strongly urged to open maximum number of Intermediate Record Centres on priority basis, within their respective areas, to collect, list and preserve these records. These Records Centres should be fully manned with qualified staff and equipped with repair and reprographic facilities. The facilities should be available, not only for the Government records but should also be extended to the libraries, learned institutions and individual scholars who have valuable private records, manuscripts etc. in their possession.

National Archives of India: Government sanction has just been received for one such Record Centre.

Rajasthan: As far as the question of posting of qualified hands to 5 Intermediate Archival Repositories (at Alwar, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota and Udaipur) is concerned, the Rajasthan State Archives has already upgraded the posts of the Head of these offices from Assistant Archivist to Archivist. At present out of five, three are manned by Archivists, of them two are trained Archivists. Besides a provision has already been made in the Fifth Five Year Plan to post Preservation Assistants in each of the Repositories to carry out the normal repair work. There is already a provision to extend research facilities to the scholars.

Uttar Pradesh: Provisions have been made to establish several Regional Archives Centres at the various headquarters of the Divisional Commissioners in the Fifth Five Year Plan. One Regional Archives was established at Allahabad in July 1973. One more Regional Archives will be established in the current financial year at Varanasi. A few more will be established at Agra and Nainital. Regional Archives will be full of, manned by qualified staff and equipped with repair and reprographic facilities. The facilities will also be extended to Libraries, Learned Institutions, and Individual Scholars who have valuable private records and manuscripts in their custody.

Orissa: The Resolution is under active consideration of the Government.

West Bengal: The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Nagaland: The Department will take action on the Resolution.

Pondicherry: The Archives section is in the initial stage of reorganisation. Steps are being taken to implement the resolution gradually.

Tamil Nadu: The Resolution is under consideration.

Resolution VII: Resolved that the Central and State Governments may be requested to throw open records relating to persons and parties involved in the political movements during pre-Independence days which were in the custody of the Central Bureau of Intelligence, the State Police Departments and Departments of Criminal Investigation for the use of Research Scholars.

National Archives of India: The Government of India is of the view that the records of Central Bureau of Intelligence should not be opened yet. Regarding records of the other Intelligence Organisations of the Central Government, the Government of India is of the view that it would not be advisable to transfer wholesale records to the National Archives of India, as they often contain information and material of personal and sensitive nature. However, such Intelligence reports which are available in the files of the Ministry of Home Affairs were shown to research scholars subject to considerations of security and nature of records concerned.

Maharashtra: The C.I.D. records mainly relate to secret abstracts of intelligence. It is a permanent record and is required for reference purposes many a times. Thus these records being confidential secret cannot be exposed to the scrutiny of any individual without proper screening and supervision. The C.I.D. record may contain, apart from secret abstracts of intelligence, other records, but such records also stand on the same footing as the records relating to secret abstracts of intelligence. Some of the C.I.D. records may be of lesser importance from secrecy point of view, such records cannot be separated without losing continuity and their compact character.

In the circumstances, this Government is not in favour of throwing open the secret and confidential records of the state and Greater Bombay, C.I.D. and depositing them with the State Archives for use of the research scholars.

Punjab: The matter has been referred to the Government.

Madhya Pradesh: The records maintained by the Special Branch of State Police are neither very complete and exhaustive nor are they of much interest to the researchers. It will not be desirable from the point of security to keep them open for consultation unconditionally.

Uttar Pradesh: The Government has already been requested to issue necessary instructions to the Intelligence Department to transfer records relating to Freedom Movement to the Uttar Pradesh State Archives.

Orissa: The Resolution is under active consideration of the Government.

West Bengal: The matter is receiving attention.

Gujarat: The Government has no objection to permit genuine research scholars to have access to the State Police Department and the C.I.D. records prior to 15th August 1947, on certain restrictions.

Andhra Pradesh: Inspector General of Police has informed that there are no records in the Crime Branch and Special Branch C.I.D. relating to the persons and parties involved in the political movement during pre-Independence days.

However, Government in the Education Department has been informed that this office feels that the records relating to persons and parties involved in the political movement during the pre-Independence days can be thrown open to the research scholars. But the question of throwing open the said records which are in the custody of the Home Department and the C.I.D. Department of Andhra Pradesh Government requires pre-examination by the concerned Departments. Hence it has been requested that the concerned Departments may be consulted in the matter.

Kerala: Government is being requested by State Archives to pursue such action as they deem fit on the resolution.

Tamil Nadu: The Resolution is under consideration.

Resolution IX: Resolved that this body requests the State Governments to enact a law to bring under over-all supervision of the State Archives Services, records preserved by private bodies like maths, temples, churches, societies, libraries, museums, universities and learned institutions in their respective States.

Rajasthan: The matter has been taken up with the State Government as well as Commissioner, Devasthan Department and the Secretary, Rajasthan Muslim Waqfs Department.

Maharashtra: The matter is under consideration of the Maharashtra Government, which has been requested to expedite the decision.

Punjab: The Punjab State Archives is not yet in a position to bring under its supervision the records of private bodies. So far even the Government records which are 25 years old, have not been acquired completely. Therefore when regional repositories are opened and all Government records are acquired, the proposal regarding bringing of private records under the supervision of State Archives, will be considered.

Karnataka: Efforts will be made to secure the implementation of the recommendation.

Pondicherry: The Archives is in the initial stage of reorganisation. Steps will be taken to implement the Resolution gradually.

Andhra Pradesh: The matter is under consideration of the Andhra Pradesh Government.

Tamil Nadu: The Resolution is under consideration.

Resolution XI: Resolved that all State Government should evolve as early as possible a well articulated retirement policy for their records and prepare retention schedules for records at all levels in line with the rules of the Central Government.

Rajasthan: The Administrative Department of the Rajasthan Government suggested that a sample survey of some of the Departments be made so that on the basis of findings of this survey, some concrete steps could be taken on both, and a well articulated policy of records as well as imparting of training to the men in service for looking after the records. As a result thereof a questionnaire has already been issued to almost all the important Departments of the State Government and initially the response is reasonably good. A detailed report will follow after replies to the questionnaire have been received from a reasonable number of Departments.

Uttar Pradesh: A well articulated retirement policy for records has been prepared and it is now under consideration of the Government.

Maharashtra: The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Punjab: Action in the matter is to be taken by the State Government. The case has since been referred to the Government.

Nagaland: The Department will take action on the resolution.

West Bengal: The matter is under examination and the decision of the State Government will be communicated to the National Archives of India in due course.

Karnataka: Efforts will be made to secure the implementation of the recommendation.

Pondicherry: The Archives is in the initial stage of re-organisation. Steps are being taken to implement the resolution gradually.

Delhi: Delhi State Archives has issued an Archival Policy Resolution in respect of the records of the Union Territory of Delhi.

Andhra Pradesh: The necessary action will be taken on receipt of the Retention Schedule of the Central Government from the Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms, Cabinet Secretariat, New Delhi.

Kerala: The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Tamil Nadu: The Resolution is under consideration.

Resolution XII: The Commission notes with regret that, inspite of its earlier recommendations, vide Resolution No.IV of its 31st Session held in 1955 and Resolution No.3(a) of the 36th Session held in 1961, the Government of India had not so far made arrangements for the manufacture of the Standard Quality Paper recommended by the ISI in consultation with the National Archives of India, with the result that the Union and States Governments, as well as others, were obliged to use low quality paper for their permanent records. The Commission, therefore, strongly recommends that urgent measures be adopted, either for manufacturing this paper in India, or for importing it from abroad, as in the long run the use of quality paper for permanent records would not only prove more economical, but was absolutely essential, keeping in view the importance of these records for the future generations.

National Archives of India: A meeting of the Committee set up to consider the question of use of standard quality paper in Government offices was held on 9 May 1975. The representative of the paper manufacturing units agreed to supply good quality paper samples being produced indigenously for tests by the National Archives of India. A few samples of paper were subsequently received and examined in the Research Laboratory of the National Archives of India. For ascertaining the uniformity of the quality in production it is now proposed to subject more samples for further investigations and some tangible conclusions might be arrived at within the course of a few months. Data on total quantum of paper that might be required is also being collected.

The annual approximate requirements indicated by the following States and Union Territories are given below:-

<u>Name of the States</u>	<u>Annual requirements</u>
1. Himachal Pradesh	5 Metric Tonnes
2. Meghalaya	5.06 " " "
3. Mizoram	.5 " " "
4. Orissa	300 " " "
5. Uttar Pradesh	790 " " "

Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu have replied that the matter is under consideration.

Resolution XIII: Resolved that appropriate authorities be moved to direct their attention to the archives of the Municipal Corporations and other Local Bodies, who should be asked to ensure their preservation in properly organised Record Rooms to be looked after by suitable staff. Further resolved that these records be regularly appraised and proper lists or catalogues be prepared of the permanent records, which should be made available for research to bonafide scholars.

Punjab: The matter has already been referred to the Government for taking necessary action.

Orissa: The Resolution is under active consideration of the Government.

West Bengal: The Municipal Service Department of the Government, under whose administrative control the various Local Bodies in the State function, have agreed to implement the Resolution.

Maharashtra: All the Municipal Corporations, Municipal Council, zilla Parishads in the Maharashtra State have been requested to ensure preservation of their archives in properly organised record rooms to be looked after by suitable staff.

Karnataka: Efforts will be made to secure the implementation of the recommendation.

Nagaland: The Department will take action on the resolution.

Pondicherry: The Archives is in the initial stage of reorganisation. Steps are being taken to implement the Resolution gradually.

Andhra Pradesh: The Education Department of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Health, Housing and Municipal Administration and Panchayat Raj Departments to furnish the necessary information regarding the manner in which the records are preserved and arranged by them to the Director of State Archives, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

Tamil Nadu: The Resolution is under consideration.

V. Resolutions of the 43rd Session
Lucknow, 28-29 January, 1973.

Resolution II: "The Commission resolves that the Government of India be requested to treat the National Archives of India Annex as a functional building and to give top priority to its construction, which is absolutely essential for the National Archives of India to effectively discharge its responsibilities, and particularly to implement the Archival Policy Resolution which requires it to accept custody of billions of the non-current public records lying scattered and neglected in the various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India".

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA: Considering the urgent need for construction of the Annex to the National Archives of India,

the Government of India has, as a special case, agreed to make a budget provision of Rs.2.00 lakhs in 1975-76 to enable the C.P.W.D. to complete architectural competitions for design and preparation of drawings according to the finally selected design. The question of taking up the actual work of construction of the building will be considered after the design has been finalised.

Resolution III: "The Commission is greatly perturbed over the reported large scale destruction of old public records in several States, notwithstanding the repeated recommendations of the Commission (vide Resolution No. II of 1925, Resolution No. VII of 1942, Resolution No. V of 1943, Resolution VI of 1951) and resolves that a Sub-Committee consisting of five Members of the Commission be constituted to investigate and report to the Standing Committee, within six months, on the following:

- (a) the extent to which the above resolutions are being implemented;
- (b) the period and the nature of records destroyed during the last two years;
- (c) the qualifications and suitability of the staff engaged on appraisal of old records; and
- (d) the steps which can be taken immediately to ensure the preservation of records of permanent value.

2. The Commission also recommends to the State Governments that no pre-1947 records be destroyed till the said Committee has submitted its report*.

In pursuance of the Resolution the Government of India set up the Committee of Record Management consisting of the following members:-

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| 1. | Dr. B.P. Saksena | Chairman | Retired professor
of History,
Allahabad University. |
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| 2. | Dr. P.M.Joshi | Member | Ex-Director of Archives,
Government of Bombay. |
| 3. | Thiru C.Badrinath | " | Commissioner of Tamil
Nadu Archives and
Historical Research. |
| 4. | Sh. A.T.Govindarajan | " | Deputy Secretary,
Department of Personnel
and Administrative
Reforms (Department of
Administrative Reforms). |
| 5. | Dr. S.V.Desikachar | " | Director, State
Archives of Karnataka. |
| 6. | Sh. S.A.I.Tirmizi | Member
Secretary | Deputy Director,
National Archives of
India. |

Consequent upon the transfer of Thiru Badrinath, Thiru L.M.Vasagam who assumed charge of that post on 24.5.1975 was appointed as a member of the Record Management Committee by the Government of India in his place.

The first meeting of the Committee was held on 7th May 1975 when the modus operandi for the task to be accomplished was chalked out and a draft questionnaire prepared by the Secretary was approved. At the second meeting was held on the 23 July, 1975 and the statistical analysis of the data received from some of the State Governments/Union Territories were examined.

This analysis revealed that the information received was full of gaps and other lacunae. It was therefore decided that the Committee should examine the records on the spot and hold discussions with administrators/historians/archivists. The Committee also finalized its itinerary for visiting of States/Union Territories.

Subsequently.

The Committee visited the following States/Union Territories/Central Agencies as detailed below:

<u>Zone</u>	<u>State/Union Territories</u>	<u>Place</u>
Northern Zone	Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir	Chandigarh, Delhi, Srinagar
Central Zone	Delhi Administration, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, National Archives of India	Delhi, Lucknow, Jaipur, Bikaner, New Delhi
Western Zone	Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat	Bombay, Panaji, Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar
Southern Zone	Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh	Trivandrum, Madras, Pondicherry, Bangalore, Mysore, Hyderabad
Eastern Zone	Assam, West Bengal, Bihar	Gauhati, Shillong, Calcutta, Patna

During this tour the Committee recorded the evidence of more than eminent historians, archivists and administrators besides holding discussions with the representatives of the Govts. concerned. Thirty tapes were utilized for this purpose. All these tapes have been transcribed and the cyclostyled copies of the evidence sent to the Members.

The Committee is now engaged in finalizing the report for submission to the Government of India by the

end of February 76 as scheduled.

Resolution IV: "Resolved that every effort should be made to reactivise the Regional Records Survey Committees by seeking as far as possible the assistance of the Indian Council of Historical Research and the University Grants Commission through the Universities already represented on the different Regional Records Survey Committees."

Karnataka: The Government has been moved to reconstitute the the Regional Records Survey Committees in the State.

Gujarat: Most of the members of the Regional Records Survey Committee represent the various Universities of this State. However the Resolution will be discussed in the next meeting of the Committee and possibilities for seeking assistance of the Indian Council of Historical Research and University Grants Commission will be explored.

Punjab: No Regional Records Survey Committee has been constituted by the State Government due to lack of funds. Assistance of the Indian Council of Historical Research and University Grants Commission will be taken as soon as the above Committee is constituted.

Tamil Nadu: The Regional Records Survey Committee is not in existence in this State. The Resolution will be kept in view as and when the Committee is constituted.

Resolution V: "Resolved that a Committee consisting of five to six Members be appointed to study the implementation of the 'Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972' and to make recommendations for enacting legislation regarding records of national importance, which may be less than 75 years old."

In pursuance of the Resolution a Committee was formed by the Government of India consisting of the following:-

1. Professor Bisheshwar Prasad	Chairman	Retired Professor of History, Allahabad University.
2. Dr. S.Bhattacharya	Member	Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
3. Dr. N.R.Banerjee	Member	Director, Directorate General of Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi.
4. Smt. Rama Devi	Member	Additional Legislative Counsel, Ministry of Law, Justice & Company Affairs, New Delhi.
5. Miss D.G.Keswani	Member-Secretary	Officer on Special Duty, N.A.I.

The Committee completed its task quickly and submitted its report to the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, New Delhi, on 24 October, 1975 for being placed before the Standing Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission.

Resolution VI: "The Indian Historical Records Commission strongly recommends that all the State Archives should take immediate steps to declare open their respective records upto December 1945 to bonafide research scholars."

Steps taken by the Archives Departments of States/ Union Territories are given below:-

<u>State/Union Territory</u>	<u>Period of records open for research.</u>
1. Punjab State Archives	Upto 1947
2. Tamil Nadu State Archives	Upto 1945

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| 3. Karnataka State Archives | 35 years old records |
| 4. West Bengal State Archives | 30 years old records |
| 5. Uttar Pradesh State Archives | -do- |
| 6. Bihar State Archives | -do- |
| 7. Andhra Pradesh State Archives | -do- |
| 8. Kerala State Archives | -do- |
| 9. Government of Madhya Pradesh | -do- |
| 10. Goa Archives | -do- |
| 11. Delhi Archives | -do- |
| 12. Pondicherry Archives | -do- |
| 13. Assam Secretariat
Record Office | 30 years old records are open but records relating to Freedom Movement and Partition of India are open upto 1947. |
| 14. Maharashtra State Archives | Upto 1945. |

Resolution VII: "Resolved, that a Correspondence Course in Archives Administration be conducted by the National Archives of India for the benefit of the members of the staff working in different offices of the Central and State Governments. The said course may be of one year duration and candidates who have completed at least one year service and are holding regular posts may be allowed to take up the Correspondence Course."

National Archives of India: The proposal for introduction of Correspondence Course in Archives Administration has been included as a plan scheme under the Fifth Five-Year Plan and necessary provision made thereof. Govt. sanction is expected shortly.

Recommendation: The Indian Historical Records Commission recommends to the Government of India and the State Governments the desirability of providing

facilities in their respective Archival Departments for the microfilming of newspapers and other periodicals, current as well as old, at the request of the owners and proprietors concerned, and conserving one copy in the repository as a record of permanent historical value.

National Archives of India: The Recommendation was forwarded to the Ministry of Education and Social & Welfare (Department of Culture), Government of India to constitute a Committee for the implementation of the Recommendation. The Ministry has now agreed to the appointment of a Committee with Director of Archives as the Chairman and an Assistant Director of Archives as Member-Secretary. However, in view of the fact that the Government of India has appointed another Committee known as "Microfilming Co-ordinating Committee", the National Archives of India has approached the Ministry of Education, Deptt. of Culture either to exclude the work of the microfilming of newspapers from the purview of the new Committee or to establish some Co-ordination between the two so that the two Committees do not duplicate their efforts.